

CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
FOR IRELAND.

FIRST
ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD
FOR IRELAND,

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.



D U B L I N :

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CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD FOR IRELAND.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY ROBERT OFFLEY ASHBURTON,
BARON HOUGHTON,

LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

IN submitting to your Excellency the first annual report of our proceedings, we, the Members of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland, desire in the first place to refer briefly to the constitution and powers of the Board.

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD.

The Act for the improvement of the Congested Districts in Ireland received the Royal Assent on the 5th of August, 1891, and by the 34th section of the Act the Congested Districts Board for Ireland was constituted. It consists of ten members in all—that is to say, two *ex-officio* members, five other members to be appointed by Her Majesty, and in addition temporary members not exceeding three in number, and they also are appointed by Her Majesty. One of the *ex-officio* members of the Board is the Chief Secretary, or, in his absence, the Under-Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant; and the other *ex-officio* member is a Land Commissioner, who is nominated by the Lord Lieutenant to specially represent Agriculture and Forestry. The Board is to continue in existence for twenty years from the 5th of August, 1891, and thereafter until Parliament shall otherwise determine.

& 55 Vict.
c. 48, part II.

AREA TO BE DEALT WITH.

For the purpose of defining the Congested Districts it is enacted in the 36th section of the Act that—

“Where at the commencement of this Act more than twenty per cent. of the population of a County, or in the case of the County Cork of either Riding thereof, live in Electoral Divisions of which the total rateable value, when divided by the number of the population, gives a sum of less than one pound ten shillings for each individual, those Divisions shall form a separate County (in this Act referred to as a Congested Districts County.)”

A list of all such Electoral Divisions, and also of those Divisions subsequently added by the Lord Lieutenant, is appended to

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this report, and the following short summary contains some figures of statistical interest in connexion with the Congested Districts.

TABLE OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS COUNTIES.

CONGESTED DISTRICTS COUNTY.	Number of Congested Districts.	Number of Congested Electoral Divisions.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1891.	Poor Law Valuation.	Poor Law Valuation per head of Population.
Donegal, . . .	19½	89	824,132	110,290	99,171	2 s. d. 0 18 0
Leitrim, . . .	4½	38	174,004	35,230	40,062	1 s. 8
Sligo, . . .	2½	21	146,099	32,505	41,263	1 s. 6
Boaccommon, . .	6½	18	104,802	26,145	26,838	1 s. 9
Mayo, . . .	18½	93	503,480	143,901	130,864	0 18 3
Galway, . . .	14½	60	504,968	75,248	67,179	0 17 10
Kerry, . . .	13	77	661,042	86,981	93,876	1 s. 7
Cork, . . .	6	33	237,902	30,806	40,882	1 s. 7
Totals, . . .	84	428	3,608,569	549,516	593,141	1 s. 3

* Valuation per head on the total population.

The congested districts are situate in the north-west, west, and south-west of Ireland, as roughly shown in the annexed map.

MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE BOARD.

(1.) The chief item of the Board's income is the sum of £41,250 a year, being interest at 2½ per cent. per annum on the sum of £1,500,000, referred to in the Act as "The Church Surplus Grant." The Board is also empowered, subject to certain conditions, to apply part of the principal of this Grant for the purposes of the Act.

(2.) The Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, amounting to about £56,000 in securities, cash, and outstanding loans, was placed at the disposal of the Board, subject to the proviso that the moneys shall be applicable only to any county where the Fund might have been applied before the passing of the Act—that is to say, in the counties of Cork, Galway, Kerry, Leitrim, Mayo, Boaccommon, Sligo, *Clare*, *Limerick*, and *Tipperary*. In the last three counties there are not, however, any districts that are congested within the meaning of the Act.

(3.) Portion of the Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund amounting to about £18,000, has also been transferred to the Board, and this sum is applicable to districts in the maritime counties of Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Kerry, and Cork.

(4.) The Board is authorized by the Act to accept any gifts of property, real or personal. Since the passing of the Act, the Board has received as a gift the sum of £2,500, portion of

the unexpended balance of the Irish Distress Fund, subscribed in 1891, at the suggestion of the Earl of Zetland, and the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour. This gift has been appropriated by the Board to the completion of the Bealadangan Causeway in Connemara.

POWERS OF THE BOARD.

The Board is empowered to take such steps as it thinks proper for improving congested districts, in connexion with the following subjects or matters, namely:—

1. Agricultural development.
2. Forestry.
3. Breeding of live stock and poultry.
4. Sale of seed potatoes and seed oats.
5. Amalgamation of small holdings.
6. Migration,
7. Emigration.
8. Fishing and matters subservient to fishing.
9. Weaving and spinning.
10. Any other suitable industries.

In short, the Board's efforts are to be directed as regards agriculture, towards increasing the size of small holdings and towards improving live stock and methods of cultivation; and in the second place towards aiding and developing all industries, including fishing. Further, it is enacted that agriculture and industries in their various branches may be aided and developed by indirect as well as by direct means.

It is impossible to mention all the various indirect methods by which agriculture and industries may be assisted in poor and remote parts of the country, but, first, perhaps, in importance comes the establishment of such means of communication (whether by railway, steamship, or otherwise) as will enable goods to be imported and exported at rates sufficiently low to make trade possible and profitable to producers and consumers in remote congested districts.

The Board has received a very large number of Memorials asking that certain roads and boat-slips should be made, partly on the grounds of the *convenience* that would be afforded, and partly owing to the alleged existence of *exceptional distress*. In such cases it seems more fitting that, as a rule, small works of convenience should be executed, if necessary or desirable, by the Grand Jury of the County; while on the latter grounds it is quite clear that our Board was constituted with a view to bringing about a gradual and lasting improvement in the poor districts in the West of Ireland and not for the immediate "*relief*" of exceptional distress. Probably works may be undertaken by the Board at a time when destitution exists in a locality, but the object will be not the providing of "*relief works*," but the making of an effort to permanently and materially improve the trade and resources of such a district in connection with agriculture and industries. The natural desire for employment and wages, when the food-supply and other resources of a district are scanty or insufficient, causes

many applications to be made to us, with respect to undertakings that do not properly come within the province of the Board, and we, therefore, think it right to explain the principle upon which we act in such cases.

OFFICES AND OFFICIAL STAFF.

The house No. 23, Rutland-square, Dublin, was taken and furnished out of moneys voted by Parliament as an office for the Board, and the first formal meeting of the Members was held on the 2nd of November, 1891. Application was then made to the Lord Lieutenant and the Treasury, with reference to the employment of officials for carrying out the projects of the Board, and by the 1st of January, 1892, arrangements were sanctioned for the appointment of a Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and a small staff of Clerks.

Mr. W. L. Micks, Local Government Board Inspector, who had, since the passing of the Act, been acting as Secretary *pro tem.*, was appointed Secretary from the 1st of November, 1891, and soon after Mr. John R. O'Brien, of the Irish Land Commission, became Assistant Secretary and Accountant.

The salaries of officials and the administrative expenses of the Board are payable out of moneys provided by Parliament, and not out of the funds allocated by the Act for the improvement of Congested Districts.

PROCEDURE OF BOARD.

At our meetings in the month of November it was decided that four Committees should be appointed to make inquiries and report to the Board, from time to time, as to all applications and questions connected with the four main departmental subjects of *Land, Industries, Fisheries, and Finance*, or the management of the Board's receipts and expenditure. Subsequently a Committee was appointed to consider and report on all contemplated *Works*, such as piers and roads. All the Members of the Board act on this Committee.

The following Members were appointed on the several Committees:—

* <i>Industries,</i>	{	Charles Kennedy.
		Honorable H. Plunkett.
		James H. Tuke.
* <i>Fisheries,</i>	{	Rev. Charles Davis, P.P.
		Rev. W. S. Green.
		James H. Tuke.
<i>Land,</i>	{	Thomas P. Cairnes.
		Honorable H. Plunkett.
		James H. Tuke.
		Frederick Wrench.
<i>Finance,</i>	{	Charles Kennedy.
		Thomas P. Cairnes.
		Frederick Wrench.

Between the date of the passing of the Act and the beginning of November, 1891, numerous Memorials and suggestions had

* The Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell has been appointed a Member of the Industries and Fisheries Committee.

been received, and it became necessary to decide upon what general lines the Board should proceed.

One course would have been to inquire into and deal finally with each Memorial or suggestion as it was received, but the Board came to the conclusion that such a practice would be unwise and almost necessarily unjust as regards the relative claims of the numerous districts concerned. The locality most fruitful in Memorials would not always be the locality most deserving of assistance. And, again, the Board would, had this course been adopted, have abandoned, at the outset at all events, its responsibility for the initiation of general and comprehensive plans for the improvement of the districts confided to its charge.

After much consideration it was decided that a careful survey of the condition of the various localities should be undertaken by Members and Inspectors of the Board. A list of districts, or App. B. natural areas, was drawn up and with respect to each such district, it was determined that—

“A minute examination into the existing condition of the inhabitants should be undertaken, by which their means of livelihood, the quality of the soil, the amount of land (if any) now available for extension of holdings, the fishing accommodation in existence, the possibility of increasing it, the number of migratory labourers, the character and extent of local industries, and other relevant particulars should be carefully recorded.”

Numerous other distinctions between one district and another were also mentioned, but the above enumeration of matters for inquiry will suffice to explain the object in view.

Nearly all the area scheduled as congested has now been surveyed with great care, and the Board feel that its practical work could never be systematic and consistent in the absence of such special statistical and descriptive information for its guidance. The time that has been occupied in the preparation of these surveys has not been ill-spent, and our only regret in this respect is that the consequent deferring of local hopes has, to some extent, caused an unfavourable prejudice against the Board in minds where it is important that confidence and good wishes should exist towards such remedial efforts as shall be made. No doubt a more favourable reception would have been accorded to a procedure, as regards works and other local projects, that would have resulted in what might have appeared for the moment to be more business-like, as well as prompt, action. But the Board believes that it has adopted a course that is likely to lead to better and more lasting results.

PRESENT CONDITION OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS.

Another object in undertaking the preparation of such surveys as have been mentioned was that the Board might place on record some precise and general statements as to the present condition of the inhabitants of congested districts, so that progress may in the future be judged and estimated from a “base-line” measured at the starting of the Board’s work, and before

plans for improvement were put into operation. The making of a full statement as to the present condition of the congested districts cannot yet be attempted, but, pending the giving of further information in a subsequent report, a short description of the districts will be useful.

In the first place, practically all the inhabitants of congested districts in Ireland are in possession of small plots of land, so that the development of agriculture and the improvement of the breeds of live stock and poultry, are of primary and universal importance. Secondary sources of income vary in different districts. In many localities the results of sea-fishing are as valuable as the produce of the land. In other districts wage-earning in England, Scotland, and elsewhere is an indispensable source of livelihood. Weaving, knitting, sewing, kelp-making, sale of seaweed, sale of turf or peat, sale of illicit whiskey, donations from relatives in America, occasional employment at home are sources of income of greater or less importance in different localities. In hardly any of the districts mentioned in Appendix B to this report are the means of livelihood identical. Residents along the seashore have many advantages arising from fishing, from gathering seaweed for kelp and manure, and from cheap carriage by sea for flour, meal, and other commodities; but, on the other hand, peat for fuel has often to be brought from a great distance by those living on the seashore, and rough grazing for cattle and sheep is frequently not available there. People dwelling inland either depend almost altogether on their farms, or else they regularly migrate for some months of the year in search of employment in England and Scotland, or even America in rare instances. In some inland mountain glens where the inhabitants have very small patches of land tilled in primitive and unskilled methods, where their cattle and sheep have deteriorated in breeding and diminished in numbers, where little effort is made by the men to earn money through migratory labour or otherwise—in such mountain glens are to be found those people who endure the most comfortless and cheerless lives of all the inhabitants of congested districts in Ireland. In “a good year,” they are little more than free from the dread of hunger, while a complete or partial failure of their crop involves as a consequence proportionately greater or less suffering from insufficient food.

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As circumstances vary greatly in different localities we append Tables showing the income and expenditure of typical families in the most numerous classes of the inhabitants of congested districts.

It appears from the tables in Appendix C. that in some congested districts the value of the produce of the farm, together with the earnings and receipts of a family from every other source, do not exceed a total of £15 a year, while in other congested districts the annual resources of an ordinary family are worth nearly as much as £80. But even in the most prosperous of the congested districts the standard of living is low, the diet being altogether vegetable, with the exception of salt fish at times, which is used more as a *relish* than as an article of food. The houses, furniture, and bedding are too often unhealthy, mean, and comfortless, and

the week-day clothing is frequently ragged and scanty. With the exception of shop-keepers, very many families are on the same low level with regard to resources, but some families are so utterly unfortunate as to have either no able-bodied men among them or else too few to provide for their wants.

The farms, or rather holdings, are small in extent, and from 2 to 4 statute acres are planted with potatoes and oats. The rents for these plots vary from a few shillings to £6 a year, but in most cases rights of turbary and rough commonage grazing are appurtenant to the holding without further charge, and frequently the right to cut or gather seaweed for manure and kelp-burning is also enjoyed. The methods of cultivation are usually primitive and bad, there being no rotation of crops: drainage is insufficient: there is an inadequate supply of suitable manure: and the weeding of crops is neglected. The breeds of live stock are worn out and of little value, and the kinds of poultry too are capable of much improvement.

The disposition or inclination of the people as regards industry is of vital importance to the success of our efforts. Suggestions and projects may be wise and good, but nothing can come of them except failure, unless perseverance in hearty work is shown by people who have rarely had an adequate motive for steady hard work. The income at the Board's disposal is only at the rate of a few shillings a year for each family in the Congested Districts, so that prosperity is not to be conferred through money payments by the Board: it must be earned by the people themselves, for the Board's Funds are only sufficient to provide instruction and opportunities for those who are willing to struggle hard to improve their condition.

OPERATIONS OF THE BOARD FROM THE 5TH AUGUST, 1891, TO THE 31ST DECEMBER, 1892.

Agriculture in its various branches, *Sea Fisheries*, and *Industries* of different sorts are the occupations in connection with which the resources of the inhabitants of the Congested Districts are to be aided and developed by the Board, and under these heads, and also in reference to the construction of some *Works* of utility, we proceed to report to Your Excellency our operations from the passing of the Act in August, 1891, to the 31st of December, 1892.

I. AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture, taken in its limited sense to mean the science and practice of the cultivation of land, and a number of other kindred subjects, are dealt with by the Land Committee of the Board, namely:—

- (a.) Agriculture.
- (b.) Forestry.
- (c.) The improvement of the breed of live stock and poultry
- (d.) The supplying of suitable farm seeds.
- (e.) The amalgamation of holdings.
- (f.) Migration, and
- (g.) Emigration.

To its "Land Committee" the Board assigned the duty of investigating, supervising and reporting on all projects connected with any of the foregoing subjects, but at one of the very first meetings of the Board it was arranged with the Agricultural Department of the Irish Land Commission that, under the control of Mr. Wrench (the Land Commissioner nominated on the Board to especially represent agriculture and forestry), it should carry out such agricultural and kindred operations as might from time to time be delegated to it by the Board. The Agricultural Department either undertakes the execution of schemes initiated by the Board, or more frequently submits projects for consideration, and carries them out as approved of or varied by the Board.

Since the passing of the Act much has been done by the Board in its agricultural department, considering the difficulty that naturally attends upon the execution of novel work by new official machinery.

Science of
Agriculture.

As regards the science and practice of agriculture, although the question of starting "example plots" was discussed by us at a meeting in November, 1891, it was found that by the time that the Board would be ready to begin its work, the season would be too far advanced for the making of a satisfactory attempt to organize any efforts for imparting agricultural instruction.

For the coming year, however, arrangements are being made to try to improve the system of cultivation, which is of the most primitive kind in the districts with which the Board has to deal.

In the Union of Swinford the Royal Dublin Society has, for the last two seasons, employed an instructor, whose duty it has been to teach the people the best system of cultivating portions or plots of their holdings, and to encourage them by gifts of seed and by giving premiums to those who were most successful and attentive in carrying out the directions of the Instructor.

The Board believe that this plan, which so far has succeeded well, under the direction of the Royal Dublin Society, is more likely to be productive of good results than any attempt on the "model farm" lines, and it has, therefore, been arranged that experiments should be made this year in at least two districts. If these experiments prove successful the Board hope to further extend its operations in this direction.

Various other projects for developing the practice of good agriculture have been considered, and the importance of the subject can hardly be over-estimated. We believe we are not exaggerating the fact in saying that throughout the congested districts, as a rule, the produce of farms might be increased from one-third to one-half. The effect of increasing the supply of home-grown food or of farm produce to this or any considerable extent, has caused the Board to determine to make every effort to develop agriculture. The mere possibility of such good results in this direction is most encouraging, but experience at the same time gives warning that all changes

in agricultural methods are tardily adopted, no matter how vigorously and constantly they are inculcated.

During the period of distress, consequent on the partial Forestry failure of the potato crop in 1890, the Irish Government were anxious to acquire land in some of the distressed districts partly as a means for providing relief works, and partly for the purpose of trying an experiment in Forestry under the adverse circumstances that prevail on the western seaboard. With the zealous assistance of the late Father Thomas Flannery, about 900 acres, at Knockboy, on the Connemara coast, in the County Galway, were placed at the disposal of the Government, who purchased the landlord's interest, and thus became owners in fee-simple, as Father Flannery, who was the tenant, surrendered his interest in the lands. These lands were handed over to the Agricultural Department of the Land Commission, under whose superintendence a sum of £1,970 was spent in draining, fencing, and roadmaking, and in planting 90 acres, which gave much useful employment. On the 1st January, 1892, an assignment of the lands was made to the Board, which has, during this year, expended a further sum of £1,427 in carrying on the works. Up to last spring about fifty acres were planted as a main plantation with sycamore, ash, elm, beech, birch, poplar, alder, larch, Scotch fir, spruce, and silver fir, and about forty acres as shelter belts, with sea-buckthorn, alder, elder, Scotch fir, sycamore, poplar, and willow. All these trees have thriven remarkably well, with the exception of silver firs, and it is not intended to plant any more of this variety. At present 200 more acres are being planted, and it is estimated that the cost of planting per acre will amount to £4 10s. The value of this experiment is not only that if the trees grow in this exposed situation close to the shores of the Atlantic, it will demonstrate that much of the waste lands of Ireland could be turned to profitable account, but it will also afford much useful employment in the locality during the progress of planting; it will train up many to the knowledge of forestry, and its uses; and it will give the Board an opportunity of distributing, either without charge or at a nominal price, such trees as are suitable for shelter planting to be carried out under the directions of a skilled forester employed by the Board. Already a beginning has been made in encouraging the planting of shelter belts of trees. At the suggestion of the parish priest, Father O'Hara, some 350 holdings in the parish of Kiltimagh, in the Union of Swinford, County Mayo, have been planted with small shelter plantations under the supervision of the Board's Assistant Forester, who states that the people seem to take great interest in the operations. The example of the improvements in Kiltimagh caused Father O'Grady, the parish priest of Bohola, to renew a very early petition of his, that the planting of trees should be carried out in his parish, and his request was accordingly complied with. During this year therefore about 650 holdings will be provided with shelter plantations by the Board.

If at some future time successful planting could be carried out over a sufficiently large area in Ireland the establishment of the numerous profitable industries connected with wood might be

hoped for. This possible benefit is, however, we fear, very remote, as up to the present the Board has found it almost impossible to learn of any lands in a congested district that, besides being free of grazing or other rights, are suitable as regards extent, aspect, and position.

At Knockboy it is further proposed to plant during the coming season some ten acres of osiers, in the hope that basket and creel making may be introduced as one of the industries of Carna.

Live Stock and
Poultry.

Since the passing of the Act much has been done under this head, and the steps that have been taken for the improvement of the breed of horses and cattle are fully described in a report by Mr. Wrench of the 10th of June, 1892, extracts from which are appended.

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The Board found it desirable, as soon as the service season ended, to bring the stallions from the several districts where they had been located to a central *depot*, both on account of the expense of forage and supervision in remote districts, and also because it is far easier to arrange for the proper treatment of horses when they are all collected together under the charge of one responsible man. By having the stallions in a central place where they can be seen, it was also thought that such an interest would probably be created in horse-breeding in the West of Ireland that a demand for the produce of these horses might be anticipated, greatly to the benefit of the western peasants. With this object the Board have acquired a holding in the neighbourhood of Dublin where buildings for a stud-farm are in process of erection.

The effects of introducing improved breeds of horses and donkeys must be gradual, but the Board has every reason to hope that within a reasonable time the type of animals in the West of Ireland will cease to deteriorate, as has been the case for many years, and that thenceforward a steady improvement will be observed.

It may not be out of place here to quote from the *Live Stock Journal Almanac*, which is just published, a paragraph with respect to one of the stallions that the Board purchased last season.

The Earl of Harrington says:—

"I have for many years tried hunter and pony breeding; and my experience is that it is very much easier to breed, with satisfactory results, in the latter case than it is to do so in the former. The most satisfactory ponies that I have bred are by a Barb, named 'Awfully Jolly,' that I brought to England in 1878. (I may now say what I like about this stallion without fear that anyone should think that I am trying to advertise him for my own benefit. He is no longer my property: for I have sold him to the Government for the purpose of improving the pony blood in Ireland). I have bred (and my neighbours have bred) many ponies from this sire; and although many of the mares sent to him were far from being first-rate, I have never seen or heard of an unsound or bad animal by him. To give an idea of the goodness of his stock, I may say that last year two four-year-olds (that I sold because they were not up to my weight) realised the one £300, and the other £170."

Although the price of £150 which the Board paid for this aged stallion may seem high; it was determined that the experiment

of improving the breed of Irish ponies should be given the very best chance of being successful by the acquisition of one of the most celebrated pony stallions that was to be found in England. Equal trouble was also taken in securing Hackney sires of the most famous Yorkshire strains.

For the first year the Board has every reason to be satisfied with its experiments in horse-breeding, as there was a good demand for their stallions in every district except one, and there specially adverse circumstances existed. Several suggestions have already been made that the number of seventeen stallions that stood last season in the several districts should be increased.

The Board desires to express its thanks to Her Majesty the Queen for her gracious gift of the Arabian horse Tirassan, which was stationed at Glenties, County Donegal. To Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., for his cordial co-operation and advice, and to the Inspector-General and several of the District Inspectors of the Royal Irish Constabulary for their valuable assistance in carrying out arrangements the Board is much indebted.

The regulations under which Bulls are distributed are described Cattle. in Appendix D., and the distribution will be continued on nearly the same principles as were adopted last season. It is hoped that many districts will be dealt with where the people last year were backward in taking advantage of the Board's offer to sell bulls to suitable persons at about a third of their cost payable in two annual instalments.

Owing to the exceptionally low price of sheep this year, it was Sheep. considered wise to commence the experiment of improving the native breed. With this object, 151 Blackfaced Scotch rams were purchased by Mr. Wrench for the Board at the sheep sales in Oban in September last. About half of this number have been located in a district in the County Donegal, and the remainder in a district in the County Galway, where they have been placed at the disposal of the people free of charge, upon the condition that the inferior rams should be got rid of, and that only the imported Blackfaced Scotch rams should be used.

The people in each of these districts have shown themselves most willing to carry out the arrangements of the Board and to take advantage of the imported rams.

A further number of twenty Cheviot rams have also been purchased for special localities in the Counties Galway and Donegal, where that breed was considered to be the most useful.

If these experiments prove successful the Board hope to extend them considerably.

Arrangements are now being made for selling young boars of Pigs. the large Yorkshire breed to suitable persons residing in the congested districts, for three pounds each, payable in annual instalments, on the understanding that the boar's services are to be available for a low fee, and that the boar may not be sold or removed without permission. Great care is being exercised in the selection of boars, of which eleven have been purchased,

Contracts have been entered into for the supply from the herds of well known breeders, at a future date, of suitable boars subject to rejection if disapproved by the Board's Inspector. Numerous applications have been received for boars, from residents in the congested districts. Mr. Thomas Carroll of the Albert Farm, Glasnevin, and Mr. Alexander W. Shaw, President of the Pig Breeding Association of Ireland, have been good enough to assist materially in this matter by giving the Board the benefit of their valuable experience and advice.

Poultry.

A scheme was adopted early in the year 1892 for the improvement of poultry by means of distributing, on certain conditions, pure-bred cockerels in substitution of all male birds in the possession of cottagers. Carefully selected cockerels were purchased of the following breeds and numbers, respectively :—Langshans, 50; black minoreas, 115; white Leghorns, 60; and Plymouth rocks, 106; that is 331 in all. Cockerels were distributed in the districts of Carna and Carraroe, in the County Galway, and Aghagower, near Westport, in the County Mayo. As far as practicable cockerels of only one kind were sent to distinct localities. Upon the appearance of a widely-spread fatal disease among poultry in the congested districts, and, as some of the newly-imported cockerels died, the Board requested Mr. Tegetmeier, a celebrated authority on poultry, to visit the localities to which the cockerels had been sent. He reported that the disease was "*Fowl Enteritis*," and that it was practically incurable, while he at the same time indicated how the spread of the disease might be checked. Many of the cockerels, however, in his opinion, died of "*hardship*," the districts being ill adapted to support pure-bred fowl, such as had been supplied. He strongly recommended that in future only farm-bred birds should be purchased, and not those bred by poultry fanciers for show purposes, and he also suggested that in some cases pullets should be supplied with cockerels. In accordance with this advice, 170 cockerels and 80 pullets were distributed last autumn in the counties of Mayo and Donegal, under conditions entitling the Board to purchase eggs and young fowl for distribution. Four poultry farms have also been established in the County Donegal, two in the County Mayo, and one in the County Cork, at Schull, at which place 60 birds have been located, partly at the poultry farm, and partly by distribution. The Board hopes to extend its efforts for improving the breed of poultry, knowing what a high place eggs and poultry occupy in the exports of the country, and how much can be done to improve both the eggs and the conditions under which the trade in eggs is at present carried on.

Amalgamation of holdings.

During the present month, after protracted negotiation, an agreement has been almost concluded for the purchase of portion of an estate in the interior of the county Galway for £7,500, in order that some grazing lands might be divided among the occupiers of some neighbouring small holdings. The legal transfer to the Board has not yet been effected, and therefore the difficulties attendant on a re-apportionment of the land have not yet been encountered.

In many cases negotiations for the purchase of land for migration purposes are in progress, with more or less prospect of purchases by the Board, but unexpected legal difficulties have arisen in respect of which the opinion of the Irish Law Officers of the Crown has been taken, and the position of the Board is now being reconsidered. Migration.

No steps as regards emigration have been taken nor is any action at present contemplated. The Hon. Horace Plunkett, a member of the Board, has, however, during a recent visit to Canada, made some enquiries on the subject, and a report from him will be found in Appendix E. Emigration
App. E.

II. SEA FISHERIES.

The sea-coast of the congested districts may, in considering how best the fisheries can be developed, be divided with two divisions, in one of which are the counties, from Donegal to Galway, inclusive, along the west coast, where transit for fish and where marketing facilities are defective; while in the other division comprising Kerry and Cork, transit both by rail and by steamship is far better than in the north, and therefore, a much more profitable market already exists in Kerry and Cork than in the northern congested districts. Speaking generally, the Kerry and Cork fishermen need landing accommodation for boats, more than market facilities, while as regards the coast north of Galway the establishment of a market is the chief necessity, though at the same time piers and boat-slips are much wanted at some places.

It should be borne in mind that there are two distinct kinds of fish trade, that in *fresh* fish, and that in *cured* fish. The fresh fish trade requires quick and regular means of carriage to the English markets; and expensive plant—such as ice-hauls, ice, and packing boxes—is also necessary. The cured fish trade on the other hand involves the erection of fish-curing sheds and stores, the hiring of fish-curers, and the purchase of salt; but in the case of cured fish, there is not any necessity for rapid or regular transit to market, as a steamship or even sailing vessel can be chartered occasionally to take pickled or dried fish to market. For pickled or salted mackerel and herrings, barrels or boxes have to be used, but dried ling and cod are tied together and shipped in bundles without any covering.

A fresh fish trade on the west of Ireland is only possible where fish can be quickly despatched from a railway station at the water's edge on the west coast, and thence brought without delay to a steamer trading from an eastern Irish port to one of the English or Welsh ports. It is hardly necessary to add that the price, in England of coarse fresh fish, such as cod, ling, and haddock does not warrant an export trade from places in Ireland from which high rates of carriage are inevitable. In such localities, however, it is hoped that a cured-fish trade can be profitably established.

Unfortunately the Irish market is of little value for any large supply of fish, but upon the completion of some of the railways

now in process of construction it will, no doubt, be possible to establish with inland districts a trade of some value in fresh fish.

Along the Cork and Kerry coast the despatch of iced mackerel in the spring of the year to the English markets has, for a considerable time, been a most productive industry, but the spring mackerel fishing had not hitherto been attempted north of the mouth of the Shannon, with the exception of some occasional experiments at Carrigaholt on the north side of the Shannon estuary:

The foregoing remarks are a necessary preface to a description of the Board's efforts to aid and develop fishing.

Having regard to what has been above stated with reference to the necessity for rapid transit in the fresh fish trade, the Board thought that Galway Bay afforded the most suitable field for attempting, on a tolerably large scale, the establishment of a fresh mackerel and fresh herring trade with England. But while the transit facilities were encouraging nothing less than *the creation of the local industry* was the task awaiting the Board, if any benefit were to be conferred upon the inhabitants of the particular district, who, it must be remembered, were unacquainted with the management of large boats and the kinds of nets that are used. It seemed that the wisest course of procedure would be the subsidising of trained crews from other parts of Ireland to prove to the local fishermen what earnings might be theirs, and also to instruct some of the Connemara and Aran people in the management of large boats and nets, for the purchase of which the Board is willing to make loans to suitable persons. Arrangements were accordingly made with the crews of seven Arklow boats, the Board giving each crew a bounty of £40 for undertaking the risk of fishing on untried grounds far from home. An ice-hulk with a cargo of ice was moored in Killeany Bay, Aran Islands, and a steamer was engaged to take boxes of iced fish from the ice-hulk to Galway Dock, whence a special train service to Dublin was organized by the Midland Great Western Railway of Ireland.

The Board entered into an agreement with Mr. W. W. Harvey, of Cork, to market the mackerel at a fixed rate of commission, it being also arranged that he should pay the fishermen the English market price, less by a deduction of 7s. a box to cover the cost of ice packing, carriage, and English salesman's commission. The ice-hulk and boxes were provided by the Board, but Mr. Harvey purchased the ice, and defrayed all the cost of labour except the wages of a Manager.

In addition to the seven Arklow crews, two boats were fitted out by Miss Mansfield, for training crews from the parish of Carna, in Connemara, and Miss Skerritt also placed two English-built boats at the Board's disposal for the benefit of crews from Clifden parish, also in Connemara. A "hooker," or large sailing boat, belonging to Aran Island also joined the little fishing fleet, which accordingly consisted of twelve boats. The Reverend W. S. Green, an Inspector of Irish Fisheries, and a member of our

Efforts to aid
fresh fish
trade.

Mackerel.

Board, superintended the experiment in the S.S. "Fingal," which was specially chartered for the purpose. The Board also placed at the disposal of Mr. Green some nets to be lent to local fishermen.

The Arklow boats arrived at Aran on the 22nd of March 1892, but, owing to the low temperature of the sea, no mackerel were caught until the 6th of April, on which day, however, 6,000 mackerel were despatched to the English market. The weather during much of the season was stormy and unfavourable, but on the 18th of May, 73,350 mackerel were sent to Galway, and were forwarded thence by two special trains. During the season of ten weeks, the Arklow boats made on an average £316 per boat, and the local inexperienced crew under the charge of trained skippers earned about £70 per boat, although they were not ready to fish at the beginning of the season. The total number of mackerel caught was 299,480.

The result of the experiment, although it was costly, is most encouraging. The fact is proved that mackerel can be caught in Galway Bay in the spring of the year, at a time when they fetch very high prices; and there is reason to hope that it will be profitable to continue to send such fish to the English markets, if satisfactory arrangements can be made for the reduction of the heavy cost of carriage.

We have arranged for the spring mackerel fishing in 1893 at Galway Bay, but it is not proposed to pay any bounties to the Arklow boats this year, the transit and icing facilities being considered sufficient inducements, now that the presence of mackerel there has been proved. Mr. Harvey's commission too is to be reduced considerably; so that the Board's expenses in 1893 will be considerably less, it is estimated, than in 1892.

No other effort in connection with the spring mackerel trade this year is at present contemplated by the Board, it being considered more prudent to await further experience of the undertaking at Galway Bay.

At the termination of the spring mackerel fishing at Galway in 1892, an arrangement was made with Mr. Harvey to carry on the fresh herring fishing on the lines upon which the mackerel fishing was managed, but, owing to unfavourable weather, the herrings kept so close to shore that large boats could not use their nets. But, even allowing for this circumstance, herrings did not appear in large numbers in Galway Bay last summer.

Herrings.

Far more widely-spread and important results are expected at most points on the west and north-west shores of Ireland from a trade in cured fish than in fresh fish. Hitherto pickled mackerel for the American market were the only cured fish exported from the west of Ireland, and the Irish mackerel did not obtain high prices owing to the inferior manner in which they were cured. Ling, cod, glasson or coal-fish, and also herrings, have always been pickled or salted for local consumption, but too roughly and unskilfully to be marketable in England, Scotland, or abroad.

Efforts to aid cured fish trade.

The following places have been selected by the Board on the west and north-west coast of Ireland as sites for fish-curing stations:—

No.	Site for Fish Curing Station.	County.	Observations.
1	Downing's Bay, . . .	Donegal, . . .	The buildings are erected and are ready for use.
2	Tory Island, . . .	Do., . . .	Negotiations are in progress for opening a station.
3	Inishroo Island, . . .	Do., . . .	The building has been erected and is ready for use.
4	Malinbeg, . . .	Do., . . .	The buildings are being erected.
5	Teelin, . . .	Do., . . .	The buildings are erected and fish are being cured.
6	Porturlin, . . .	Mayo, . . .	Opened for mackerel curing which was not a success.
7	*Portacloy, . . .	Do., . . .	Buildings are erected and are ready for use.
8	*Inver (Broadhaven), . .	Do., . . .	Do.
9	*Inishkea Island, . . .	Do., . . .	Do.
10	Achill Island, . . .	Do., . . .	Negotiations are in progress for opening a station.
11	*Inishboden Island, . .	Galway, . . .	The buildings are erected and fish are being cured.
12	*Errisnaneen, . . .	Do., . . .	Negotiations are in progress for opening a station.
13	*Buncowen, . . .	Do., . . .	Do.
14	*Ardmore, . . .	Do., . . .	The buildings are erected and are ready for use.
15	Aran Island, . . .	Do., . . .	Do.

* Subsidised station, managed or to be managed by private individual or fish-merchant.

Other places along the coast have also been suggested as suitable sites for fish-curing stations, and it is probable that the operations of the Board in this direction will be extended if their present efforts are successful.

At some of the stations the Board appoints its own agent to purchase and cure fish, and also to make arrangements, subject to approval, for the sale of the cured fish. A price per dozen is fixed for each kind of fish; the agent is supplied with money to pay the fishermen; and detailed accounts are rendered by the agent weekly to the Board. The price paid to the fishermen is arrived at by taking an estimate of the average price of cured fish, and by taking therefrom the cost of labour, salt, and freight. The balance remaining after these deductions is the price that, on an average, will be paid by the Board during the coming season for fresh fish. The average prices are as follows:—

Ling, of not less than 30 inches in length, at per	s.	d.
dozen of 13, . . .	6	0
Cod, " 21 " "	3s.	to 4s.
Haddock, " 16 " "	2	6
Glasson, " 21 " "	2	0

Where fish are shorter than the above limits two fish are counted as one. Glasson are only purchased where there is a local demand. Small haddock for smoking are purchased at Teelin for 1s. a dozen, but, owing to the necessity for rapid transit and to the heavy cost of freight, it is questionable whether the curing of Findon Haddies can be continued. The Board does not buy mackerel for curing, as this trade is so well established that it does not require any aid except the giving of instruction in the best methods of curing and packing the fish for the American market. At the station of

Inishcoo, the Board, in order to keep up the market to a remunerative price, notified to the fishermen that herrings would be purchased at the rate of two shillings a hundred. As a consequence, perhaps, the local buyers did not let the price run down quite to this limit. Owing to the expense involved in the purchase of barrels or boxes, and also to the necessity for comparatively quick sale, the Board would much prefer not engaging directly in the curing of herrings, but the risk is not very great, if indeed it exist at all, when a low price is fixed, that is merely sufficient to ensure a recompense large enough to induce men to continue to fish. The Board has purchased about 20,000 herrings for curing, as an experiment, in order to ascertain whether it would be possible to offer a higher price than 2s. a hundred. The cured herrings have not yet been sold, so the result of the experiment is not yet known. The dried-fish trade in ling, cod, and haddock is the least risky, and therefore the most satisfactory to the Board. Labour, salt, and freight are the only expenses, and, as dried fish keeps in good condition for many months, there is not any necessity for incurring special expenses for rapid or even regular transit to market.

The only station at which dried ling and cod have so far been sold to any considerable extent is Inishhoffin, where Mr. Cyril Allies, J.P., the landlord of the island, undertook the management of the fish-curing station upon receiving some facilities and guarantees from the Board. The ling cured by Mr. Allies has been sold, chiefly in the Cork market, for from £18 to £20 a ton. The Board placed at the disposal of Mr. Allies the services of Mr. John Govertson, a skilled Norwegian fish-curer. A small quantity of dried fish was sold at the same prices by Mr. O'Kelly, of Ardmore station, in Carna parish, Connemara. Some English and Scotch fish-curers have been sent to the different stations to give instruction, and Mr. Govertson has visited other stations besides Inishhoffin.

So far none of the stations worked directly by the Board have been engaged in the ling and cod fishing, but the season is just about to begin, and we trust to be able in our next report to point to satisfactory results, and to the laying of sound foundations for the establishment of an important and remunerative industry in some of the poorest localities in the congested districts.

The Board cannot however profess to be free from anxiety in the matter, because the management of even fifteen fish-curing stations involves a necessity for most careful supervision, for strict economy, for the keeping and auditing of numerous detailed accounts and statistical returns to check expenditure, and for honest work on the part of all concerned in the undertaking.

The S.S. "Fingal" has, during the past year, been chartered for seven months, and a fresh charter has been agreed to for a further period of twelve months, as, in the opinion of the Board, the development of the fisheries would at first be much assisted by having a steamer for inspection duty, and also for affording occasional facilities to fish-curing stations by the carriage of salt for curing purposes or of dried fish.

Instruction in net-mending has been arranged for at the Aran Islands, Co. Galway; at Tip, near Belmullet, Co. Mayo; and at

Charter of
steamer for
Board's use.

Net mending,
and the bark-
ing of nets.

Burtonport, Co. Donegal. Boilers for "barking nets" will be available at the Aran Islands and at Iuisheoo. It is intended that instruction in net-mending shall be widely diffused. At Aran the arrangements are under the joint management of this Board and of the Board of National Education. It is also contemplated that the Board should assist in starting a net-mounting factory for supplying nets to the fishermen of the congested districts.

The Irish Reproductive Loan Fund and the Sea and Coast Fisheries Fund have not yet been placed at the actual disposal of the Board, and the delay results from the fact that arrangements have not yet been sanctioned for the appointment of two clerks to discharge the routine official duties in connection with the issue of loans. Since the passing of the Act on the 5th August, 1891, the duties in connection with these funds have been discharged in the name of this Board by the Board of Works and the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries. To both of these departments we are very much indebted for their friendly action in continuing to administer the funds.

III. INDUSTRIES.

The aiding and developing of spinning, weaving, knitting, and other industrial handicrafts must be recognised, after even a little reflection, as being the most difficult duty that has been entrusted to the Board, both as regards the selection of fields of work, and the carrying out of schemes for affording assistance.

One principle of a negative kind has been adopted, namely, that the Board will not undertake the ownership or management of any industrial enterprise. The terms and conditions upon which industries may be assisted are numerous, varied, and altogether dependent on the circumstances of the case, and the nature of the co-operation that may be available.

A woollen factory at which 43 hands are employed has been opened recently at Foxford, Co. Mayo, by the Sisters of Charity, and to this community the Board has advanced a sum of £7,000, at 2½ per cent. interest, repayable in 18 years by fixed half-yearly instalments.

Similarly the same religious community has opened a knitting factory at Ballaghaderreen, Co. Mayo, at which 92 hands are employed, and the Board has advanced £3,000 on like terms to the same community.

Both these loans are secured by a mortgage on real property possessed by the Sisters of Charity in the County Dublin.

It is also under consideration whether both these factories might not be further assisted by Capitation Grants for boys or girls instructed in the respective industries.

Though the matter should not, perhaps, be referred to as an industrial enterprise, the Board has agreed to advance to the Skibbereen Co-Operative Dairy Company a sum of £400, at 2½ per cent. on mortgage, repayable by instalments, in order that farmers who are too poor to become shareholders in the usual way may obtain the benefits of the Dairy.

For the purpose of providing a market for goods manufactured in congested districts, the Board has agreed to make a grant of £400, payable in two annual instalments to the Association

Fishery Loan Funds.

General Observations.

Foxford Spinning Factory.

Ballaghaderreen Knitting Factory.

Foxford and Ballaghaderreen Factories.

Skibbereen Dairy Co.

The Carna Industrial Fund.

formed some years ago for the advancement of industries in Carna and Kilkerrin, in Connemara. An agency for the sale of goods is to be established in Manchester, and it will be arranged as far as possible that the Association shall not restrict its efforts to the sale of articles knitted or made in Carna and Kilkerrin alone.

Reference has already been made to the giving of Technical Education in net-mending. A small grant of £20 has also been voted by the Board for giving Technical instruction in carpentering at Cashel National School, where the circumstances seemed to be exceptionally favourable for such instruction. Instruction in Carpentry.

In the north of the County of Donegal the factory and cottage industry of the making of shirts and underclothing by sewing machines and by hand-sewing, is a most valuable source of employment to women and girls. An effort is now being made by the Board to extend this industry to Ballyshannon, in the extreme south of the County Donegal, for the benefit of the adjacent congested districts in the Counties Donegal and Leitrim. The War Office has greatly contributed to the advancement of the project by placing at the disposal of the Board, for this purpose, the disused military barracks at Ballyshannon. Negotiations in the matter are now in progress. Shirt and Underclothing Manufacture.

Schemes for improving the supply of woollen yarn, and also for developing the very promising manufacture of home-spun tweeds, are at present under consideration. In these branches of industry the difficulties in the way of giving wise and effective help are very great. Yarn spinning and Tweed Weaving

IV. WORKS.

If the Board can obtain command of a sufficient amount of money, the execution of some works, such as the construction of piers or boat-slips, the making of some few important roads, and the opening of some drainage works will be undertaken during the coming year.

The following works are now in progress in South Connemara, namely:—A causeway and swivel bridge at Bealadangan, a small pier at Derrynea, and a short road at Dooleen. A landing stage is also in course of construction at Inver, on Broadhaven, County Mayo. Plans are under consideration for a landing place at Brandon Creek, County Kerry, and for a bridge over the Gweebarra Estuary, County Donegal. The Board has also voted a sum of £250 in aid of the expense of providing the village and pier at Kilonan with a continual water supply. Piers, roads, bridges, &c.

A tri-weekly steamer service has been subsidised by the Board between Galway, the Aran Islands, and Kilkerrin, on the coast of Connemara, at the rate of £700 a year, for a term of five years. The object of this service is to provide a market for the fish caught in Galway Bay, and also to enable the people of the Aran Islands and Kilkerrin to export eggs and cattle, as well as to receive at a less cost meal, flour, and other commodities. Miscellaneous improvements in communications.

The Government and the Postal Authorities have, at the recommendation of the Board, laid a telegraphic cable between the Aran Islands and the mainland. The development of the Spring mackerel fishing would have been impossible in the absence of Telegraphic cable to the Aran Islands.

telegraphic communication to ensure the attendance of a steamer for special trips when necessary, and also for ordering special fish-trains from Galway to Dublin.

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD.

The original Board consisted of the Right Honorable A. J. Balfour as Chief Secretary (or, in his absence, the Right Honorable Sir West Ridgeway, K.C.N., as Under Secretary); Frederick Wrench, Esq., an *ex-officio* Member as a Land Commissioner; the Rev. Charles Davis, P.P.; the Honorable Horace Plunkett; and Thomas P. Cairnes, Charles Kennedy, and James H. Tuke, Esquires.

Temporary
Members.

The Rev. W. S. Green, an Inspector of Irish Fisheries, was almost immediately appointed to be a Temporary Member of the Board, and on the appointment of the Right Honorable W. L. Jackson as Chief Secretary (and therefore an *ex-officio* member of the Board), the Right Honorable A. J. Balfour was appointed a Temporary Member. The third Temporary Membership was filled by the appointment of Major William Peacocke, C.M.G., R.E.

The next change in the membership of the Board was caused by the appointment of the Right Honorable John Morley to be Chief Secretary in succession to Mr. Jackson.

In the month of October, 1892, the members of the Board lost the services of a widely-known and energetic colleague by the lamented death of the Rev. Charles Davis, P.P. of Baltimore. In the month of November, 1892, the Most Rev. Dr. O'Donnell, Bishop of Raphoe, was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Father Davis.

Change in
ex-officio
Members.

Change in
Members other
than *ex-officio*.

ACCOUNTS OF BOARD'S RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Appa. F and G. In Appendices F and G will be found detailed information as to the Board's receipts and expenditure up to the 31st of December, 1892.

We have the honour to be,

Your Excellency's faithful servants,

JOHN MORLEY.

WEST RIDGEWAY.

THOMAS P. CAIRNES.

CHARLES KENNEDY.

✠ PATRICK O'DONNELL.

HORACE PLUNKETT.

JAMES H. TUKE.

FREDERICK WRENCH.

A. J. BALFOUR.

W. S. GREEN.

WILLIAM PEACOCKE.

} *Temporary
Members.*

Dated this 31st day of December, 1892.

WILLIAM L. MICKS, *Secretary*,

23, Rutland-square, Dublin.

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APPENDIX B.

LIST OF CONGESTED DISTRICTS, AND ELECTORAL DIVISIONS COMPRISED THEREIN.

COUNTY DONEGAL.

No.	District.	Electoral Divisions comprised in District.
1	North Inishowen, -	Ardmalin, Carndonagh, Carthage, Culdaff, Glentogher, Greencastle, Redcastle, Tremona.
2	Clonmany, -	Ballyliffin, Dunaff, Straid.
3	Desertegney, -	Desertegney, Illies, Mintiagha.
4	Fanad, -	Carrowkeel, Fanad North, Fanad West, Greenfort, Killygarvan, Knockalla.
5	Rosguill, -	Carrickart, Cranford, Glen, Loughkeel, Rosguill.
6	Gartan, -	Church Hill, Gartan, Seacor, Temple Douglas, Termon.
7	Brockagh, -	Altnapaste, Cloghan, Lettermore, Meencargagh, Killymasny, Golland, Doosh.
8	Dunfanaghy, -	Dunfanaghy, Creenasmear, Creelough, Doe Castle, Arda.
9	Cloghaneely, -	Cross Roads, Dunlewy (part of), Gortahork.
10	Tory Island, -	Meenacady (part of).
11	Gweedore, -	Meenacady (part of), Dunlewy (part of), Magheraclogher.
12	The Rosses, -	Annagary, Rutland (part of), Dunglow Maghera (part of), Crovishy, Lettermacaward, Doochary.
13	Aranmore, -	Aran, Rutland (part of), Maghera (part of).
14	Glenties, -	Ardara, Dawros, Glengesh (part of), Fintown, Glenleheen, Glenties, Graffy, Maas.
15	Glencolumbkille, -	Glencolumbkille (part of), Glengesh (part of), Inishkeel, Kilgoly, Malinbeg (part of).

COUNTY OF DONEGAL—continued.

No.	District.	Electoral Divisions comprised in District.
16	Teelin, - -	Largymore, Kilcar, Crowkeeragh, Glen-columbkille (part of), Malinbeg (part of).
17	Killybegs, - -	Crownarad, Killybegs, Tioveskedda, Mul-mosog.
18	Inver, - -	Binbane, Bonnyglen, Corkermore, Mount-charles, Eanymore, Inver, Dunkineely.
19	Lough Eask, -	Tawnawully, Lough Eask, Haugh, Clogher, Laghy, Templecarn, Grousehall.
20	Ballyshannon (pt. of)	Cliff.

COUNTY OF LETTRIM.

(20)	Ballyshannon (pt. of)	Aghalateeve, Aghanlish, Gubacreeny, Melvin, Tullaghan.
21	Kiltyclogher, -	Arigna, Cloonclare, Garvagh, Glenaniff, Glenfarn, Killarga, Kiltyclogher, Mahanagh, St. Patrick's.
22	Kiltabbrid, -	Aghacashel, Barnameenagh, Drumreilly East, Drumreilly West, Kiltabbrid, Moher, Yugan, Gortnagullion.
23	Drumreilly, -	Drumreilly North, Drumreilly South, Greaghglass, Oughteragh, Stralongford, Cloverhill.
24	Mohill, - -	Beighy, Breandrum, Cashel, Cattan, Cloone, Corriga, Keeldra, Aghavas, Castlefore, Rowan.

COUNTY OF SLIGO.

25	Grange, - -	Cliffony North, Cliffony South, Lissadill North, Lissadill West.
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COUNTY OF SLIGO—continued.

No.	District.	Electoral Divisions comprised in District.
26	Ardnaree (part of) -	Rathmacurkey, Buncrowey, Castleconor East, Mullagheruse, Ardnaree South.
27	Tobercurry (part of)	Glendarragh, Tobercurry, Kilmacteige, Aclare, Banada, Achonry East, Breen-cornagh, Cloonacool, Achonry West.
28	Ballaghaderreen (part of).	Ouilmore, Kilfree, Coolavin.

COUNTY OF MAYO.

(26)	Ardnaree (part of) -	Kilgarvan, Sallymount, Attymass East, Attymass West.
(27)	Tobercurry (part of)	Cloonmore, Doocastle.
(28)	Ballaghaderreen (part of)	Kilmovee, Ballaghaderreen, Edmondstown.
29	Knockadaff, -	Knockadaff, Knocknalower, Muingnabo, Beldergmore, Lackan North.
30	Belmullet, -	Belmullet, Binghamstown North, Binghamstown South.
31	Rath Hill, -	Muings, Glencastle, Rath Hill.
32	Bangor Erris, -	Barroosky, Glenamoy, Sheskin, Bangor Goolamore, Glenco.
33	Ballycroy, -	Ballycroy North, Ballycroy South.
34	Achill, -	Achill, Corraun Achill, Docega, Slievemore.
35	Newport, -	Newport West, Newport East, Glenhest Srahmore.
36	Pontoon, -	Addargoola, Ballynagoraher, Pontoon Croughmoyle, Burren, Bellavary, Bunsveela, Letterbrick, Derry, Deal.
37	Islandeedy, -	Islandeedy, Clogher, Cloonkeen.
38	Clare Island, -	Clare Island.

COUNTY OF MAYO—continued.

No.	District.	Electoral Divisions comprised in District.
39	Louisburgh, -	Aillemore, Enlagh, Kilgeever, Kilmallagh, Louisburgh, Croaghpatrick.
40	Aghagower, -	Knappagh, Aghagower South, Slievemahanagh, Drumnin.
41	Partry (part of) -	Portroyal, Ballyovey, Cappaghduff, Tawynagry.
42	Foxford, -	Sraheen, Toomore, Callow, Cuildoo.
43	Swinford, -	Tungesh, Meelick, Swinford, Sonnagh, Kilbeagh, Brackloon, Toocannagh, Killedan, Urlaur, Kilkelly.
44	Kiltimagh, -	Kiltimagh, Knock North, Murneen.
45	Ballyhaunis, -	Aghamore, Coolnaha, Loughanbey, Knock South, Bekan, Ballyhaunis, Course, Culnacלה, Kilvine.
46	Claremorris, -	Claremorris, Cloghermore.

COUNTY OF GALWAY.

(41)	Partry (part of) -	Ballinchalla, Owenbrin.
47	Joyce Country, -	Cloenbur, Cong, Cur, Letterbrickaun, Ross.
48	Letterfrack, -	Ballynakill, Cleggan, Cushkillary, Rinvyle.
49	Clifden, -	Inishbofin, Sillerna, Clifden, Errislannan, Bunowen, Doonloughan, Derrylea, Roundstone.
50	Carna, -	Knockboy, Owengowla, Skannive, Moyrus, Illion.
51	South Connemara, -	Lettermore, Goranna, Crumpan.
52	Rosmuck, -	Turlough, Camus, Kilcummin (Oughterard Union).
53	Spiddle, -	Selerna, Kilcummin (Galway Union), Kiltannin, Spiddle, Furbogh.

COUNTY OF GALWAY—continued.

No.	District.	Electoral Divisions comprised in District.
54	Aran Islands, -	Inishmore.
55	Oughterard, -	Slievaneena, Oughterard, Wormhole, Letterfore, Moycullen.
56	Annaghdown, -	Annaghdown, Liscananaun.
57	Levally, - -	Belclare, Levally.
58	Dunmore (part of) -	Addergoole, Dunmore.
59	Glennamaddy, -	Templetogher, Kilroan, Ballinastack, Boyounagh, Glennamaddy, Raheen, Cloonkeen.
60	Woodford, - -	Derrylaun, Loughatorick, Woodford, Coos, Mountshannon.
(63)	Castlerea (part of) -	Island.

COUNTY OF ROSCOMMON.

(28)	Ballaghaderreen (part of)	Buckill, Artagh North, Kilcolagh, Loughlinn.
(58)	Dunmore (part of) -	Kiltullagh.
61	Boyle, - - -	Altagowlan, Ballyformoyl, Crossna, Lough Allen.
62	Tumna, - - -	Tumna North, Tumna South.
63	Castlerea (part of) -	Fairymount, Artagh South, Cloonfower, Coolougher, Ballinlough.
64	Roosky, - - -	Roosky.
65	Moore, - - -	Moore.

COUNTY OF KERRY.

66	Listowel, - - -	Ballyconry, Duagh, Gullane, Leitrim, Kilfeighny, Kilshenane, Kildryn.
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COUNTY OF KERRY—continued.

No.	District.	Electoral Divisions comprised in District.
67	Causeway, -	Ardagh, Causeway, Killury, Kiltomey, Ballyheige, Kerryhead.
68	Brosna, -	Brosna, Derreen, Gneeves, Kilmurry, Knocknagashel, Millbrook, Mount Eagle.
69	Coom, -	Clydagh, Coom, Doocarrig.
70	Castlegregory, -	Baurtregaun, Kilgarrylander, Dealis, Lack, Ballynacourty, Castlegregory, Ballinvoher.
71	Brandon, -	Brandon, Cloghane.
72	Dingle, -	Dingle, Dunquin, Kinard, Kilmalkedar, Kilquane, Marhin, Ventry, Dunurlin.
73	Killorglin, -	Caragh, Curraghmore, Killorglin, Curraghbeg, Glanbehy, Cloon, Lickeen, Maum.
74	Cahersiveen, -	Bahaghs, Caher, Canuig, Castlequin, Ballinskelligs, Emlagh, Derryiana, Killinane, St. Finan's, Teeraneeragh, Mastergeehy.
75	Valencia, -	Portmagee, Valencia.
76	Waterville, -	Ballybrack, Caherdaniel, Darrynane, Loughcurrane.
77	Sneem -	Castlecove, Sneem, Tahilla.
78	Kenmare, -	Ardea, Benawn, Dawros, Glanles, Glanlough, Glanmore, Kenmare, Kilgarvan, Coolies.

COUNTY OF CORK.

79	Castletown Bearhaven.	Adrigola, Bear, Coulagh, Curryglass, Glengarriff, Killaconenagh, Kilcatherine, Kilnamanagh, Kilcaskan.
80	Beelaneary, -	Dromdaleague North, Ahil, Beelaneary, Bredagh, Cleanrath, Slieveragh.

COUNTY OF CORK—continued.

No.	District.	Electoral Divisions comprised in District.
81	Sheepshhead, -	Glanlough, Seefin, Sheepshhead, Durrus East, Durrus West.
82	Skull, -	Ballydehob, Coolagh, Crookhaven, Dunleacon, Dunmanus, Goleen, Skull, Toormore.
83	Baltimore, -	Cape Clear, Tullagh, Aghadown South, Castlehaven South.
84	Courtmacsherry, -	Courtmacsherry.

APPENDIX C.

TABLES OF ESTIMATED RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE OF TYPICAL FAMILIES LIVING IN DIFFERENT CONGESTED DISTRICTS IN IRELAND.

No. 1.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in comparatively good circumstances, the receipts being derived from Agriculture and Fishing.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sale of 20 cwt. of oats, at 4s. 6d., . . .	4 10 0	Rent,	4 0 0
" 4 tons of potatoes, at 33s. 4d., . . .	6 13 4	County Cess,	0 8 0
" 2 two-year old cattle,	12 0 0	Clerical charges, etc.,	1 0 0
" 3 pigs (profit),	4 10 0	Clothes,	12 0 0
" a foal,	6 0 0	Meal,	3 10 0
" eggs,	7 10 0	Flour,	4 16 0
" butter,	1 0 0	Groceries, etc.,	6 11 0
" ten lambs, at 8s. each,	4 0 0	Tobacco,	2 12 0
" fish,	3 0 0	Spades, etc.,	0 10 0
		Light,	1 0 0
		Household utensils, etc.,	0 15 0
	£48 3 4		£37 2 0

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at about £10.

No. 2.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in very poor circumstances, the receipts being derived from Agriculture and Fishing.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sale of calf,	9 0 0	Rent,	1 10 0
" two sheep,	0 16 0	County Cess,	0 8 0
" pig (profit),	2 0 0	Clerical charges, etc.,	0 0 0
" fish,	3 0 0	Meal,	2 0 0
" eggs,	3 0 0	Flour,	1 10 0
		Groceries, etc.,	0 10 0
		Clothing,	3 0 0
		Lights,	0 5 0
		Utensils, tools, etc.,	0 10 0
		Tobacco,	1 6 0
	£9 16 0		£10 12 0

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at from £12 to £17.

No. 3.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in *ordinary circumstances*, the receipts being derived from *Agriculture, Fishing, and Home Industries.*

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Sale of heifer or bullock,	4 10 0	Rent,	2 0 0
" five sheep,	3 15 0	County Cess,	0 5 8
" pig,	3 10 0	Tea,	5 17 0
" eggs,	2 4 4	Sugar,	1 13 0
" flannel or twood,	3 10 0	Meal,	7 11 0
" corn,	0 15 0	Flour,	1 17 0
" fish,	8 0 0	Clothing,	6 8 6
" knitting, etc.,	1 0 0	Tobacco,	2 7 8
		One young pig,	0 15 0
		Implements, etc.,	1 4 9
	£27 4 4		£36 9 1

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at from £5 10s. to £10.

No. 4.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in *ordinary circumstances*, the receipts being derived from *Agriculture, Migratory Labour, and Home Industries.*

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Sale of cattle,	0 0 0	Flour or baker's bread,	9 2 0
" sheep,	2 10 0	Tea,	5 1 4
" pigs,	3 0 0	Indian meal,	3 18 9
" eggs,	4 0 0	Sugar,	2 3 4
Migratory earnings of men,	10 0 0	Fish and bacon,	2 0 0
Children's earnings as servants,	0 0 0	Salt and soap,	0 10 0
Knitting, sewing, etc.,	7 10 0	Oil and candles,	0 15 0
Miscellaneous sales of kelp, butter, fish, fowl, etc.,	2 0 0	Clothing (exclusive of purchases by migratory labourers while absent from home),	6 0 0
		Rent,	1 10 0
		County Cess,	0 5 0
		Church dues, etc.,	1 0 0
		Tobacco,	3 0 0
		Furniture, etc.,	1 0 0
		For replacing or exchanging cattle,	2 0 0
		Young pig,	1 0 0
		Dras,	1 0 0
		Carts, implements, etc.,	1 0 0
		Artificial manures,	1 0 0
	£41 0 0		£42 15 0

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at from £12 to £20.

No. 5.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in *ordinary circumstances*, the receipts being derived from *agriculture* and from *earnings as migratory labourers*.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sale of two pigs,	0 0 0	Indian Meal,	4 0 0
" butter,	3 10 0	Oatmeal,	1 0 0
" live stock,	7 0 0	Flour,	4 10 0
" oats,	3 10 0	Shop bread,	1 0 0
" hay and straw,	0 10 0	Tea and sugar,	3 0 0
" potatoes,	2 0 0	Bacon,	2 0 0
" eggs,	3 0 0	Tobacco,	1 10 0
" chickens,	0 4 0	Clothing,	7 0 0
Migratory labour,	8 0 0	Candles, soap, oil, etc.,	0 15 0
		Salt fish, etc.,	0 10 0
		Purchase of young pigs,	1 5 0
		Artificial manure,	1 10 0
		Rent and County Cess,	4 5 0
	£33 14 0		£32 11 0

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at about £15.

No. 6.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in *poor circumstances*, the receipts being derived from *agriculture* and from *earnings as migratory labourers*.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sale of eggs,	4 0 0	Rent,	1 0 0
" pigs,	1 10 0	Grating rent,	0 10 0
" bullock, <i>i.e.</i> , £3 every second year,	1 10 0	County Cess,	0 2 6
Migratory labour,	10 0 0	Clerical charges,	0 5 0
		Meal and flour,	4 4 0
		Groceries,	3 15 0
		Tobacco,	2 12 0
		Clothes (my),	3 10 0
		Household, etc.,	1 10 0
	£17 0 0		£17 8 6

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at about £15.

No. 7.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in ordinary circumstances, the receipts being derived from *Agriculture and Home Industries*.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sale of eggs,	3 14 6	Rent,	2 15 0
" cattle,	10 10 0	Cos and Taxes,	0 10 4
" sheep,	4 4 0	Meal,	7 0 0
" wool,	0 12 0	Flour,	0 5 0
" pig,	3 10 0	Tea,	5 4 0
" corn,	1 10 0	Sugar,	1 12 6
Ketting,	14 19 0	Tobacco,	2 12 0
		Snuff,	1 19 0
		Soap,	0 6 8
		Oil and candles,	0 8 8
		Implements, etc.,	0 8 3
		Purchase of young live stock,	4 15 0
		Clothing,	7 4 0
	£38 19 6		£41 0 5

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at about £10.

No. 8.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in ordinary circumstances, the receipts being derived from *Agriculture and Home Industries*.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sale of eggs,	3 12 6	Rent,	3 0 0
" fowl,	0 13 4	Cos and Taxes,	0 11 0
" cattle,	8 0 0	Meal,	4 7 6
" sheep,	2 10 0	Flour,	6 5 0
" wool,	0 12 0	Tea,	5 4 0
" pig,	3 10 0	Sugar,	1 12 6
" corn,	4 10 0	Tobacco,	2 12 0
Shirt-making by sewing-machine,	15 12 0	Snuff,	1 19 0
		Whiskey etc.,	2 8 0
		Light, soap, salt, etc.,	1 8 7
		Purchase, etc., of young live stock,	3 19 6
	£38 19 10	Clothing, etc.,	6 16 0
			£40 3 19

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at about £10.

No. 9.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in *ordinary circumstances*, the receipts being derived from *Agriculture and Home Industries*

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Sale of eggs,	2 17 6	Rent,	3 0 0
" fowl,	0 10 0	Cess and taxes,	0 11 0
" cattle,	7 0 0	Meal,	6 6 0
" sheep,	2 10 0	Flour,	6 5 0
" wool,	0 11 8	Tea,	5 4 0
" pigs,	7 0 0	Sugar,	1 12 6
" hay,	3 0 0	Tobacco and snuff,	2 16 4
" corn,	1 10 0	Light, soap, salt, etc.,	1 3 7
" butter,	3 6 8	Purchase, etc., of young stock,	4 6 0
" turf,	1 10 0	Clothing,	6 7 0
Grazing payments,	1 5 0		
Embroidery work or knitting,	5 4 0		
	£36 10 10		£37 11 5

Home-produce consumed by the family is valued at about £15.

No. 10.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in *ordinary circumstances*, the receipts being derived from *Agriculture and Home Industries*.

RECEIPTS.	£ s. d.	EXPENDITURE.	£ s. d.
Sale of eggs,	2 1 11	Rent,	2 10 0
" fowl,	0 13 4	Cess and Taxes,	0 10 0
" cattle,	5 0 0	Meal,	7 14 6
" sheep,	3 10 0	Tea,	5 17 0
" pig,	5 0 0	Sugar,	1 12 0
" corn,	0 11 8	Light, salt, etc.,	0 11 6
" butter,	1 5 0	Tobacco and snuff,	3 0 4
Remittances from relatives in America,	2 0 0	Young pig,	0 14 0
Tweed or flannel woven,	4 6 8	Clothing,	5 10 6
	£23 8 7		£25 15 4

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at about £10.

No. 11.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in *ordinary circumstances*, the receipts being derived *altogether from Agriculture*.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Sale of butter,	10 0 0	Rent,	7 0 0
" cattle,	10 0 0	Cox and Rates,	1 2 0
" pigs,	5 0 0	Clothing,	6 0 0
" sheep,	4 0 0	Meal and flour,	8 0 0
" eggs, wool, etc., . . .	3 0 0	Groceries,	4 0 0
		Miscellaneous,	3 0 0
	£33 0 0		£29 2 0

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at about £12.

No. 12.

Receipts and Expenditure of a family in the *poorest possible circumstances*, the receipts being derived from *Agriculture and Labour in the locality*.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Eggs,	1 3 0	Rent,	1 0 0
Sixty days' labour, at 1s. . . .	3 0 0	County cess,	0 2 0
Herding cattle,	4 0 0	Meal,	5 17 0
		Clothing,	0 10 0
		Groceries,	4 0 0
	£8 3 0		£11 9 0

Home produce consumed by the family is valued at about £6.

[NOTE.—The foregoing twelve tables, all of which relate to different districts, were not compiled by the same person, and consequently differences are apparent in the manner in which the items of receipt and expenditure are presented.]

APPENDIX D.

EXTRACT FROM REPORT OF MR. WRENCH ON LIVE STOCK,
DATED 10TH JUNE, 1892.

HORSE-BREEDING.

"The diminutive horses and ponies of the West of Ireland, said by tradition to be descended from Andalusian horses, which were on board some of the ships of the Armada wrecked in 1588, have sadly deteriorated, and, save where on rare occasions an Arab or Thoroughbred horse was here and there introduced at long intervals, no improvement has been attempted; while in the Milford and Carndonagh and other districts in Donegal, they have unfortunately been crossed with Clydesdales, which cross, although at the time it produces a big rough colt that can be sold at from £12 to £14 as a two-year old, has filled the country with soft, sluggish, ungainly animals, and done much to deteriorate the breed, and to make it very hard in futuro to come back to a class of mares that ought to be bred from. It is nearly impossible in any of the districts to find a sire which would not do more harm than good.

"The question before us was, therefore, what sires to introduce?

"Such authorities on horse-breeding as the Lord Lieutenant, Mr. Chaplin, Lord Harrington, Mr. Burdett-Coutts, Mr. Walter Gilbey, Sir George Wombwell, and many others, both in this country and England and abroad, were consulted, and finally it was decided that to produce saleable cobs with action, the introduction of the small Yorkshire Hackney would be the best, and for the production of polo ponies, for which in some localities a special demand exists, the introduction of the Arab or the Barb.

"Small thoroughbred sires are not recommended by the best authorities; it is only by an accident that a thoroughbred is small, and although occasionally a good Polo Pony is the result, he is too apt to produce from these little mares a nondescript animal about fifteen hands high, which is suitable for no particular purpose and for which there is no certain demand, and it is therefore much safer to breed from a sire that possesses by heredity the tendency to produce stock of its own size and character.

"Also, thoroughbreds are not remarkable for that hardiness and inherent soundness possessed by the other breeds which we have decided to use, and which are so essential if our experiment is to be a success.

"The type of horse having been decided on, the next thing was to procure enough horses to enable us to start the experiment this year.

"All the horses, with one exception, are stationed in different selected centres under the charge of the District Inspectors of the R. I. Constabulary, which was found to be the only possible means by which we could have our arrangements carried out, and it is difficult to return to the Inspector-General and the officers under him sufficient thanks for the hearty manner in which they have joined with us in trying to make the scheme a success.

"For this year the horses are stationed as follows:—

Place.	County.	Breed.	Name.
At Carradonagh, . .	Donegal, .	Hackney Stallion, . .	"Lord Tonnyson."
" Dunfanaghy, . .	do., .	do. do., . .	"Real Gentleman."
" Glenties, . . .	do., .	Arab do., . .	"Thameson."
" Dungloe, . . .	do., .	Hackney do., . .	"Zeus."
" Swinford, . . .	Mayo, .	do. do., . .	"Fireway 2nd."
" Belmullet, . . .	do., .	do. do., . .	"Lord Derwent 2nd."
" Do., . . .	do., .	Arab do., . .	"All Babe."
" Achill Sound, . .	do., .	do. do., . .	"Desert Born."
" Do., . . .	do., .	Hackney do., . .	"Cattle Fireway."
" Newport, . . .	do., .	do. do., . .	"Boaz."
" Clonbur, . . .	Galway, .	do. do., . .	"Fashion 3rd."
" Letterfrack, . . .	do., .	do. do., . .	"Lord Go Bang."
" Cashel, . . .	do., .	Barb do., . .	"Awfully Jolly."
" Oughterard, . . .	do., .	Hackney do., . .	"King Fireway."
" Schull, . . .	Cork, .	do. do., . .	"North Riding."
" Kilmoran, . . .	Kerry, .	Cleveland Bay Stallion, .	"Bay Benedict"
" Ballinamore, . . .	Lettim, .	Hackney do., .	"Rokeby."

"In order to have the stallions properly looked after during the service season, which is of great importance, and also on account of the difficulty that the District Inspectors experienced in engaging really good grooms, we found it necessary to appoint a first-class stud groom whose duty is, in the service season, to constantly visit the different stations, and see that the horses have been properly looked after, and to give any advice to the groom in charge, or to the people, with regard to breeding, that may be required.

"After the service season it is proposed that all the stallions shall be located in a central depot under his charge; and inquiry is now being made for a suitable site.

"In some districts, notably in Swinford, we found that a considerable demand for donkeys existed, and we have already purchased three Spanish Jacks, and hired one for this season; while through the instrumentality of the War Office we are now importing six other Spanish Jacks direct from Spain.

"Two Jacks are located at Swinford, one at Ballinamore, and one at Dungloe.

"Our idea in introducing these animals is not so much to breed mules as to improve the breeding of the donkeys themselves. For the services of these Jacks there is a great demand.

"Both with regard to the horses and donkeys I think that in another year the Board should follow up the system it has introduced by offering premiums for foals produced from our several stallions.

"This would do much to develop an interest in the subject in the districts, and would also make the people take rather more care of their foals than they do at present, which it is evident would be to their advantage; also at such an exhibition of foals it would give us an opportunity of seeing the mares, and seeing the people, and giving them advice and suggestions which might help them in future.

"The general opinion is that highly-bred Yorkshire Hackneys, with plenty of quality, such as we have purchased, are the right sires to introduce in order to produce the most saleable animal, for the ordinary market, from the mares with which we have to deal; and we certainly could not have introduced any more popular type of horse.

CATTLE.

"With regard to cattle, we have adopted a somewhat different system, and the following are the conditions under which 65 bulls have been sold at £12 each, and distributed in the districts as given below:—

- "(1.) Shorthorn, Polled Angus, Galloway, Red Polled, and Ayrshire bulls will be sold at cost price, the purchase money being payable in two equal instalments, due on 1st October, 1892, and 1st October, 1893, each instalment being reducible to Six Pounds provided that the purchaser has, in all respects, complied with the conditions subject to which the bull has been sold: special terms and conditions will apply to Kerry bulls.
- "(2.) Each bull will be sold subject to the condition that it shall be maintained in proper condition by the purchaser at a place approved of by the Congested Districts Board, from the time of delivery to the 1st day of October, 1893, during which period the purchaser shall be bound to give the service of the bull to the cows of qualified persons at a fee not exceeding Two Shillings and Sixpence per cow, except in the case of Kerry Bulls, when the fee charged shall not exceed One Shilling and Sixpence.
- "(3.) Every inhabitant occupier in the Congested Districts, the aggregate tenement valuation of whose holding or holdings does not exceed £20 per annum, shall be entitled to the service of the bull for his or her cows at the fees laid down in regulation No. 2.

For this year bulls have been distributed as shown in the accompanying table.

TABLE.

COUNTY.	UNION.	Shorthorn.	Aberdeen Angus.	Galloway.	Red Faced.	Total for Union.	Total for County.
Donegal,	Ballyshannon,	1	-	-	-	1	18
Do.,	Dunfennaghy,	-	3	-	-	3	
Do.,	Glenties,	2	5	1	-	8	
Do.,	Inishowen,	-	1	2	-	3	
Do.,	Lettorkenny,	-	1	-	-	1	
Do.,	Midford,	1	1	-	-	2	
Lettim,	Carriek-on-Shan.,	1	-	-	-	1	5
Do.,	Manorhamilton,	2	1	-	-	3	
Do.,	Mohill,	1	-	-	-	1	
Down,	Castlereagh,	2	-	-	-	2	2
Mayo,	Belmullet,	-	2	-	-	2	25
Do.,	Castlebar,	3	-	-	-	3	
Do.,	Claremorris,	3	2	-	-	5	
Do.,	Swinford,	12	1	-	-	13	
Do.,	Westport,	-	2	-	-	2	
Galway,	Clifden,	-	1	1	-	2	5
Do.,	Oughterard,	-	1	2	-	3	
Kerry,	Dingle,	2	1	-	-	3	5
Do.,	Killarney,	-	-	-	1	1	
Do.,	Trillick,	-	-	-	1	1	
Cork (West),	Bantry,	2	-	-	-	2	5
Do.,	Behnall,	3	-	-	-	3	
	Total,	35	22	6	2	65	65
	Unallotted,	-	-	3	-	-	3

"In Kerry an altogether different plan was followed.

"The greater part of the Cahirciveen peninsula, together with parts of the Unions of Kenmare and Killarney, being mainly devoted to the breeding of Kerry cattle, it was decided to supply only Kerry bulls to these districts. At the request of the Board, Mr. James Butler, of Waterville, County Kerry, and Mr. James Robertson, of La Mancha, Malahide, both of whom are well known in connection with the improvement of Kerry cattle, kindly consented to select and purchase a number of Kerry bulls for distribution in the districts named; twenty-nine bulls have been purchased, of these twenty-one have been located with farmers, and the remainder will be placed with suitable persons

as soon as possible. These bulls are the property of the Board, but are placed with selected persons in suitable districts, who are obliged to maintain them until October 1st, 1892, on the following conditions :—

- “(1.) The bull's services are available, free of charge, to owners of Kerry cows resident in the district.
- “(2.) The contractor who obtains the bull is obliged to keep a record of the cows served, and to maintain the bull in good health and condition.
- “(3.) Subject to the above regulations being carried out, the contractor will be paid three pounds on the 1st October.

“These conditions are no doubt liberal, but it was found after much consideration impossible to start the scheme in Kerry on other lines with any chance of success.

“It is proposed to use every effort to induce owners of badly-bred Kerry bulls to dispose of them; the introduction of so many well-bred bulls should soon produce a marked improvement in the breeding of Kerry cattle, now so highly prized in England for Dairy purposes.

“It is anticipated that many more applications will be received from persons in the district requiring Kerry bulls, and it will be seen that we have, in all, distributed nearly a hundred bulls, which is a fair beginning.

“I could wish that with regard to the bulls, we had found it possible to locate more of them with actual farmers, and to distribute them more evenly, but of course we were obliged to send them to those people who came forward and were willing to accept our conditions, and I have no doubt that our bulls are located where they will be of the utmost service to the small farmers in the neighbourhood.

“Personally, I should also have been glad if the number of Short-horns in these poor districts had not been quite so large, but owing to the foot and mouth disease, all importation from Scotland was stopped, which made it hard for us to obtain a sufficient number of Polled bulls: and, of course, when selling, although at a very low price, we were bound to supply the particular breed of bull for which the purchaser asked, having in the first instance advised him as to what we considered most suitable.”

APPENDIX E.

REPORT UPON EMIGRATION TO CANADA, BY THE
HON. HORACE PLUNKETT.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGESTED DISTRICTS BOARD.

GENTLEMEN,—At the informal meeting of the Congested Districts Board held at the Irish Office, London, on the 30th July last, it was agreed that the time which was to elapse before the Board held its first formal meeting should be utilized by individual members for investigations into the various conditions with which we should have to deal, and into the feasibility of the alternative remedies indicated in the 39th Section of the Land Purchase Act of 1891. The study of Irish emigration, which would naturally fall to the lot of Mr. J. H. Tuohy, the highest authority on the subject, but which seemed to require an extended tour in the United States and Canada, was entrusted to myself, as being available for the journey, and so, as soon as I could make the necessary arrangements, I sailed for Canada, and landed at Montreal on the 7th of September. Lord Fingall accompanied me throughout and rendered valuable assistance to me in my inquiries.

As I was obliged, from the necessity of the case, to act without definite instructions it is well that I should state briefly the nature and scope of the inquiry which I had undertaken. The Board, I was aware, might or might not at some future time see fit to assist emigration. Other remedies so far as practicable would be preferred. At the same time in some districts the chief remedy would be "amalgamation of holdings," and this would involve migration or emigration. Some families would surely choose the latter alternative, and it would in those cases be the duty of the Board at least to furnish them with such information as would lead to their going to places where their condition would be improved. Quite apart, too, from any influence which the Board may exert, it is not to be expected that the human stream from Ireland to America will altogether cease to flow, and much good might be done by discouraging promiscuous uninformed emigration, such as has hitherto prevailed. I set myself, therefore, in the light of recent immigration and the laws relating thereto, to consider what opportunities the New World offered to the West of Ireland immigrant, whether as a field for labour or settlement on the land. The necessary visits to public men prompted the ubiquitous interviewer to magnify a tour of investigation into the elaboration of schemes which would materially affect the distribution of people on the surface of the globe. I need hardly say that I confined myself to ascertaining facts to lay before the Board.

I will only add, by way of introduction, that the field of inquiry was so enormous that it could not be covered in the time at my command. We had only six weeks and two days ashore. One week was lost through sickness. My inquiries in Canada were fairly satisfactory to me. But I had intended to take four more weeks in the States, when I heard that the Board was to meet on October the 29th, and had to hasten my return. I, therefore, hold over my report as to the United States for the present, hoping that I may get further information when

my own business takes me to America in the autumn of 1892. It should be borne in mind that any information obtained or suggestions offered with regard to emigration, apply solely to such emigrants as would start from the Congested Districts of Ireland or of Scotland.

CANADA.

The Census of the present year shows an abnormally small increase in the population of Canada, especially in rural districts. This is a matter of bitter disappointment to the Canadians, but it has brought immigration into high favour.* It is true that the Government had been in recent years forced by pressure from the Labour organizations to abandon the payment of steamship fares. But the opposition to this policy related only to skilled labour, of which the supply is quite equal to the demand. Hence, the Government has been able to substitute, for assisted passages, cash payments to actual settlers on the free grants of Manitoba and the North West Territories.†

It was soon evident that such opportunities as might be found for successful immigration must almost exclusively exist to the west of Winnipeg. In Quebec, Montreal, Ottawa, and Toronto we made inquiries into the possibility of settling poor families on farms in the old settled districts of Upper and Lower Canada, and as to the demand for unskilled labour in the towns.

Many instances were laid before us of farms being offered for sale by growing families needing more room and moving west. But in no case could we learn, as had been suggested, that the circumstances under which these farms had been abandoned indicated their availability for colonization in small holdings. Where clearing of the forest was required, land was cheap enough, but the backwoods offered no such inducements as the western prairies. Where the land was cleared the price was prohibitive, and the capital required for working it for the Eastern market comparatively high.

In the province of Ontario, and some parts of Quebec, there seemed to be a definite though limited demand for farm labour, and unquestionably a certain number of fairly "strong" families could be provided for.

In the ports of Quebec, Montreal, and in the large inland towns there are "Dominion Government Agents," who constitute the staff of what is practically an immigration bureau, charged with the duty of giving information to newcomers as to the demand for labour, rate of wages, cost of transportation, board and lodging, &c. From these agents, who all seemed to be men of large experience, we gathered that we could count on their organization, which is especially efficient by virtue of the co-operation existing between them, to assist in looking after any immigrants on landing. With a month's notice they all felt confident that a limited number of families could be provided with employment

* Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G., Secretary to the High Commissioner for Canada in London, has pointed out in an article in the *Fortnightly Review*, October, 1891, that in the recent Canadian Census, changes in the method of enumeration were adopted which accounted to some extent for the disappointing results.

† The scale of these bonuses is as follows:—

"To settlers from the United Kingdom taking up such land within six months of their arrival in the country:—Fifteen dollars (£3 1s. 8d) to the head of a family, seven dollars fifty cents (£1 10s. 10d) for the wife and each adult member of the family over twelve years of age, and a further sum of seven dollars fifty cents (£1 10s. 10d.) to any adult member of the family over eighteen years taking up land."

if they came out in the early spring. In Toronto, the Dominion agent, Mr. J. A. Donaldson, who has some fifty years' experience, said, "I can place any number of 'strong' families in Ontario. A good workman, with a grown son, could be placed with any amount of family, and a good workman, with a wife, could be placed with a young family, the latter not to exceed four or five children." He thought the want of labour was being severely felt by the Ontario farmers, and that many of the large ones could be induced to build houses to shelter labourers and their families. The other Dominion agents we saw spoke in the same sense and left no doubt on our minds that, through this agency, selected families preferring farm labour to the responsibilities of colonization on farm lands, could be provided for. If fifty families were to offer themselves as an experimental consignment, they would be given a fair chance of improving their condition, and might open the way for many followers.

Wages for farm-hands would probably be £3 15s. to £3 10s. per month, with board. It would greatly improve the condition of the labouring emigrant if he could be taught to milk before he left home, and if he could also handle a plough he would qualify as a skilled hand. These accomplishments ought to form a part of our scheme of technical education in the Congested Districts.

We could hear of no large works, such as the construction of the Rideau Canal or the Canadian Pacific Railway, which formerly provided employment for, and gave a start to, many Irishmen in past years, though it was suggested to us that the enlargement of existing canals and the dock works at Sault St. Marie would require a large amount of labour for some time to come.

We only found one other employment outlet worth mentioning, and that applies to nearly the whole of the North American Continent, namely, domestic service for women. For this there is an almost unlimited demand. Wages for absolutely untrained girls would be in Canada from 20s. to 30s. a month in the Eastern provinces, and double these figures in the West. Washing would add 3s. to 5s. a month to their earnings, and plain cooking would command from £3 to £4 a month in the East, £5 to £6 in the West. In the United States (except, perhaps, some of the Southern States) the scale would maintain a higher average. It has always been a puzzle why the Irish emigrant in America is so little tempted by the high wages and comparatively enviable position attaching to domestic service. It may be largely explained by want of tact on the part of mistresses unaccustomed to the employment of domestic servants. Some knowledge of their business on the part of the latter would enormously reduce this friction and popularise a splendid opening for poor Irish girls.

I venture here to suggest that the Congested Districts Board would do well to encourage and assist any conventual or other institution which undertook to instruct young women and female children in common housework, laundry work, and cooking. Such an education would brighten their prospects, whether they sought employment in Ireland or elsewhere, and if they never sought employment at all, would exercise a most civilising influence on the lives of the poor at home. The profitable tourist traffic in the Congested Districts is restricted more by the difficulty of finding local help for the house-maiding in first-class hotels than for any other reason.

It is now time to consider that part of the Dominion which lies west of Winnipeg as a field for emigration, namely—Manitoba, the North-West Territories, and British Columbia.

The last named we did not visit, because it would have taken more time than we had at our disposal. There is undoubtedly much to be said for the climate of British Columbia which resembles, but is in many ways an improvement on that of our own Atlantic coast. An agent from the Government of that Province is known to have entered into negotiations with Her Majesty's Treasury for a loan towards a scheme for the transference of from 1,000 to 1,250 Crofter fishermen's families from the Western Islands and Highlands of Scotland, to British Columbia.* The emigrants were to be established on grants of free land on the coast and Islands of British Columbia, and to be provided with dwellings and means of livelihood.

Thus settled, it was expected that they would develop both the fishing and agricultural resources of the country. Nothing, so far as I am aware, has come of the negotiations, and I believe that members of Parliament and others interested in the scheme have, after a local investigation, expressed a doubt as to its probable success. In any case, before anything is done in the matter, the Treasury will be in possession of the fullest information. The opportunity may be worth watching in view of the exceptional conditions of climate and proposed pursuits. In the meantime, the growth and progress of British Columbia which is, generally speaking, too remote for direct emigration, has an indirect relation thereto by virtue of the market which it is creating for the live stock and agricultural products of certain districts in Alberta, which will be referred to hereafter.

The suitability of Manitoba and the North West territories for immigration from Irish and Scotch Congested Districts has been very warmly debated. In further examination of this question, it was quite unnecessary for us to make any lengthened inquiry into the agricultural resources of the country. The widely-published report of "The Visit of the Tenant Farmer Delegates to Canada in 1890" has been accepted as the best authority on this point. The terms upon which the land can be acquired, the cost of transportation to the lands, the capital required to support a family in the various districts, and other similar details can be found in the Canadian Government's publications and Parliamentary reports. The most useful inquiry that we could make seemed to be such local investigations as would illustrate in the light of past settlements the conditions of successful immigration. As we were only concerned with the class of immigrant that would have, in some form or other, to be assisted, and as deportation of families to such a country, without further provision for their welfare, is out of the question, the feasibility of colonisation was our chief head of inquiry.

This naturally led us to an examination of the Crofter settlements, upon which we determined to form an independent opinion. Until the contrary has been proved by experiment, it may be assumed that the population of the West Coast of Ireland being of the same race, and living in similar climate and under similar circumstances, has much the same physical and moral characteristics as these Crofter immigrants, though, perhaps, the latter have a little the advantage of the former in the point of education. It is true that the Western Irish would be almost entirely Roman Catholic, but from all that we learnt the Catholic Crofter families had shown at least as much ability to cope with the difficulties of their new environments as those of any other denomination.

* Since the above was written the whole of the United Kingdom has been included in the scheme which has been sanctioned by the Imperial Parliament.

It is not necessary to give any detailed report of our visit to the Crofter colonies of Killarney in Southern Manitoba and Saltcoats in Assiniboia. The fullest detail as to their foundation and subsequent progress can be found in the Crofter Colonisation Report of 1890 and 1891—(Blue Books C-6067 and C-6287.) Our notes refer to a period twelve months later, and we may say generally that in both the colonies the progress reported in the Government Returns above mentioned has been fully maintained.*

In Killarney, the older settlement of the two, consisting of thirty-three families which emigrated in 1885, the prosperity of the emigrants was most satisfactory. Many of them were crying out for more land, which the growing willingness to exchange labour between neighbours has fitted them to manage. The story they told us was briefly as follows: They expected before the end of the year to have commenced their repayments under the Scheme. Nothing would induce them to go back to their old houses unless they were rich enough to live without labour. Their children were well educated in school and were in the best of health. The work was continuous but not hard. At first they had to rely upon outside work, but now their farms took all the labour they could devote to them. The women had at first been oppressed by a sense of loneliness, but now were reconciled to the life as they knew it was best for their husbands and children. A man who knew them well told us that the only reason he had to fear for the future of these people was their willingness to incur debt. They were regular attendants and liberal buyers at "credit sales." It must be admitted that the selection of the land for the location of the Killarney crofters was exceptionally favourable, and it is doubtful whether such good land could now be obtained.

The Saltcoats Settlement, consisting originally of forty-nine families, of which eighteen left the colony the first year, was located on the Manitoba and North-West Railway in 1889. The district was newer and the soil apparently not quite so good as at Killarney. In this colony we especially sought out the known malecontents with the object of getting to understand the personal difficulty of colonising this class of immigrant. I will quote from notes taken during an interview with the most hopeless case that we came across—a man whose face indicated a disappointed ne'er-do-weel.

"I was sent out with four young children and given two dry cows, pork and flour unfit for human food. It made my daughter sick. Whatever hardships a man has to suffer elsewhere he will suffer worse here. My oats is done—can't get it cut. My wheat is no use. I owe 100 dollars, besides what I owe to the Government. I won't be able to pay anything back to them. I paid taxes all my life to the Government and they must pay my passage back."

The others we saw were fairly prosperous and likely to succeed. Their wives were pleased with the prospect, and those children who were old enough to form any judgment on the matter especially delighted in the change. The whole colony had suffered from the frost (frozen wheat), and all the more intelligent seemed to see their salvation in mixed farming. They had heard dreadful accounts of the climate, but they said it was not too bad, and that they and their families were generally in the best of health.

On the whole the Saltcoats experiment bids fair to show a high percentage of success with those families which gave the colony a fair trial.

*Since above was written the 1891-92 report of the Colonisation Board has been published showing further progress in detail. See Blue Book C. 6693. (1892.)

The country was evidently better adapted to mixed farming than to dependence on wheat, and what is true of the country in this respect is equally true of the Crofters and West-coast Irish.

There is another Crofter Colony on the Line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, near the Eastern boundary of Assiniboia, at Moosomin, which was established in 1883 and 1884. I have not with me a record of the exact number of families in this colony. They appear to have been sent out by private enterprise, and so far as we could see were doing very well. There has been a great deal of trouble in getting them to meet their obligations. In the years of their settlement almost everything that was supplied to them cost nearly double the present prices, and consequently their outfits had been so curtailed that their progress had been very much delayed. But the best opinion seemed to be that they would ultimately discharge their liabilities and become prosperous owners of their farms.

In our travels we did not confine our attention to the Crofters, who are still too few to illustrate the capabilities of the country, but learned all we could about bodies of immigrants who were prospering in their new homes. We found almost every European nationality represented, and doing well. Two instances we thought especially instructive. Some 1,100 families of Mennonites from Southern Russia settled in 1884 and 1885 on the Red River. They had on an average under £15 in cash per family, when they began to farm. The Dominion Government set apart a tract of country for their use, and advanced to them about £17 to carry them over. Although in their first year they were visited by a plague of grasshoppers, they are now almost out of debt—mostly owning their farms, and own a large quantity of stock besides. They are looked upon as model settlers, and the following extract from a letter which I have received from an informant who knows them well, gives an insight into the cause of their prosperity:—

"They had a system of living in villages when they first arrived, but this is gradually breaking up, and they are working out on their farms. This system, while perhaps objectionable in some ways in leaving so much of the country unoccupied by buildings, and giving it an unsettled look, was perhaps, for them the best thing they could have done, and was a great saving. For instance, one well would serve the village at the beginning, while the cattle for the whole village would be tended by one herd boy, and no fences were required. The land for cultivation was allotted in proportion to the quantity of good land fit for cropping on each one's particular homestead. Their buildings have been very much improved, and most of them are very comfortable log buildings, and log stables with thatched roofs. Some of them have got frame buildings. They have a large amount of stock, and it has been remarked that their horses are always in splendid condition, and of a very good class."

The persecution which this strange sect suffered equally at the hands of Protestants and Catholics in the Reformation times seems to have bred in them the same attributes of success which the Jews display when seeking a refuge from oppression in a new country.

A far more instructive instance is that of 113 Icelandic families which settled, in the years 1881 to 1890, in Argyle County, Southern Manitoba, as the circumstances of the immigrants are strangely analogous to those of people in the poor districts of Ireland and Scotland. The population of Iceland was, when these people first came in 1881, in the truest sense "congested," and as we heard the country described by one of the emigrants, it reminded us strangely of the worst districts we had visited in the West of Ireland. We were told of a country with hardly any agriculture, except a little spade cultivation, and which therefore has to import all its bread stuffs; with no subsidiary industries except fishing and the feather trade; whose commerce is conducted almost entirely by barter; a country without wheeled vehicles; a

men of enterprise, in later years they were in many cases "assisted" by the community on which they had been a burden. They were now all independent. They at first tried to subsist on a small green crop and a few sheep and ponies, as a means of making a livelihood. But they had now adopted the wheat-growing of the country. Their children are bilingual, and go to the English schools. In the rising generation all clannishness bids fair to disappear. The only advantage they have over Scottish and Irish emigrants is the greater ease with which they endure the cold.

In all the districts in this country which we had hitherto seen the farmers mainly depended on wheat for their profit. This crop grows upon the virgin soil and in favourable seasons pays well enough; but unhappily in these latitudes its repeated partial destruction by frost shows it to be a very speculative one. Early sowing and the introduction of a new variety of wheat has greatly lessened the risk. Nevertheless, the tendency of the country is towards mixed farming, and, as above suggested, the class of immigrants in whom we were interested would be far better adapted to the care of stock than to cultivation which has to be conducted, in order to be profitable, in a rough and ready but very expeditious manner.

We therefore determined to look over a district much further west, with which I happened to have been acquainted as manager of a ranching company a few years ago, namely the portion of the Alberta Territory lying along the "foot-hills" of the Rocky Mountains between Calgary and Edmonton. The locality to which we went was about sixty miles north of Calgary, and is known as the Red Deer Country, being situated on the river of that name. It was a fair sample of a considerable area open for settlement. We found an excellent soil for cultivation, and many conditions which would be of the utmost advantage to poor settlers. There was an ample supply of running water, and well-water could be obtained at a moderate depth. The country was well wooded, and the pasturage was far finer than anything we had seen in the districts further east. Timber was much more plentiful for both building purposes and fuel. The climate, although quite as severe in its extremes and less suitable for growing wheat, was far better adapted for handling stock because a greater rain and snow-fall produced luxuriant pasturage which gave both better and more abundant hay for use in the winter time.

At the same time the snow did not lie as long in the winter owing to the well known "Chinook" wind which periodically crosses the mountains from the Pacific Coast, sometimes sweeping away six to ten inches of snow in a single night. Cattle here would do without hay for ten months in the year, whereas in Manitoba they would probably have to be fed for six months.

The chief disadvantage would be the extra cost of some provisions, and a considerably higher freight on agricultural machinery, implements, &c., from, and all products to, the eastern markets. But a market is likely to develop in British Columbia where the area of agricultural land is disproportionately small in comparison with the mining, fishing, timber, and other industries. Calgary, many people think, will develop into a large city. Its market already absorbs, at good prices, the products of the surrounding country. While we were there two companies were establishing extensive cold storage plants for beef, mutton, and pork. It would also cost more to get the emigrants to this country, the railway journey being from 300 to 500 miles further than to the districts already colonised. But the cost of maintenance would be

greatly reduced where cows could be cheaply kept. I might add that the early settlers, at any rate, would be able to avail themselves of such an abundance of game (prairie chicken, willow grouse, ducks, geese, &c.), as we had never before witnessed. I must not go into further detail; but I may say that we thought this country more suitable for emigration purposes than any of those already mentioned.

From Alberta we hurried back to Winnipeg, having made arrangements before leaving Canada for the United States to confer with the representative men of the Provincial and Dominion Governments, and with prominent officials of the Railways, the Hudson Bay Company, and the various Land and Financial Agencies. Among the many who showed us the utmost courtesy, and gave us most valuable information, I may mention Mr. H. H. Smith, the Dominion Land Commissioner, Mr. A. F. Eden, Land Commissioner of the Manitoba and North Western Railway Company, and W. B. Searth, of the Canada North West Land Company.

What has been said above tends to show that the free lands of Manitoba, and the North West Territories can be successfully availed of for the purposes of colonisation. When the emigrants are industrious they can undoubtedly repay borrowed capital, and quickly secure independence. I have not gone into the resources which the country affords for assisted emigration without subsequent provision for the emigrant, as no action in this direction could be undertaken by the Congested Districts Board. But it is worth while to note that the country absorbs all its immigrants, and even those who leave these settlements to seek their fortunes independently manage to subsist without being supported by the community. Probably the most unsuitable emigrants ever sent out to Canada were a certain twenty families who were sent from the East end of London in 1884, to farm lands in Assiniboia. They were utterly unacquainted with country life and to-day only five of them remain upon their farms. Eight have settled in the little town of Moosomin, in a quarter nick-named Whitechapel, and are profitably following various trades. The seven others are scattered about in various parts of the West of Canada, and are believed to be doing well.

The difficulties of the climate are, I believe, greatly exaggerated. Looked at only from a thermometric point of view it is unquestionably severe. But all classes of immigrants seem to become quickly acclimatised, and we could hear of no cases in which any considerable number of people, not previously affected by disease, had suffered in health from the change. It must, however, be admitted that the newness of all conditions, the bleak inhospitable prairie, the absolute necessity for energetic and continuous effort, and the many necessary hardships incidental to the settler's life, to say nothing of grievances fostered by visitors who had politically disapproved of the scheme, exercise a most discouraging effect upon emigrants from poverty-stricken districts, and render it extremely difficult to conduct them through the early period of dependence and indebtedness to a state of independence and ownership. This can only be accomplished through the elaboration of a financial and administrative plan based on a thorough knowledge of the personal characteristics of the emigrant, and of the various conditions of the localities selected.

It should always be borne in mind that there are others interested in the success of the emigrants than the Government of the country assisting them to emigrate. A scheme of colonisation should rely upon the co-operation of all parties benefited, as far as possible in proportion

to the amount of the benefit. The Dominion Government could hardly be expected to go beyond their grant of 160 acres of free land and their bonus to settlers. The land available for settlement being quarters of alternate sections (square miles), the owners of the other sections have a direct interest in seeing the Government lands occupied as it increases the value of their own lands.*

In many districts the Hudson Bay Company are largely interested in this way. The Railway Companies are also interested in the settlements of the lands along their lines, and I have no doubt that they could be induced to carry immigrants and their goods at a rate which would cover the actual cost of transportation. Generally also the Railway Companies are owners of enormous tracts of land and are therefore interested in a double capacity.

By the co-operation of these Companies can the problem of colonisation best be solved. This has been recognised by the Colonisation Board who have had charge of the Killarney and Saltecoats Settlements, for they have appointed an advisory Board in Winnipeg which includes representatives of the Agencies above mentioned. The difficulties with which they have had to contend are enormous, and the ability with which they have been surmounted is beyond praise, especially when it is considered that the services of these gentlemen have been gratuitous. I am quite convinced that, by using the experience which they have gained in past experiments, they will be able to devise a scheme under which the same class of emigrants with which they have hitherto dealt could become independent and repay the cost of the outlay on their removal and settlement.

I shall, I presume, be expected to suggest in what way the Congested Districts Board, if forced to apply the emigration remedy, could do so in Canada. Single labouring families could be dealt with as suggested at the beginning of this Report. For any large scheme of colonisation I should strongly urge the Board to confine itself to the reception of applications for families desiring to emigrate, to starting arrangements, and to a limited financial responsibility. The further administration of the scheme could not possibly be in better hands than those of the Colonisation Board. This Board has recently been reorganized for the purpose of including in its operations the Congested Districts of Ireland, and of utilising therefor a certain fund allotted for emigration purposes under the Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1881, sec. 32. It seems to have been overlooked that clause 4, sec. 35, of the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act, 1891, Part II., repeals the above section, and there are, therefore, no funds available, but it would be within the power of the Congested Districts Board to obtain funds for the purpose on the security of its income.

It is essential that the emigrants should understand that they do not deal directly with the Government at home, or with any body whom they looked upon as equivalent to the Government, and that they will be made to meet their obligations. It would be well if one of the agencies I have mentioned, or a joint agency, including representatives from them, could be induced to undertake the work. A loan to such a body, at a low rate of interest, and with easy terms of re-payment, with possibly a small capital rebate, provided the colonisation were carried

* Ordinary settlers are in many ways a great acquisition to a new district. All classes of commodities cheapen as the population increases. In thinly inhabited districts it is extremely hard to start and maintain schools. Neighbours are essential, not only for the sake of company, but also on account of the necessity for the exchange of labour, implements, etc.

out on some such lines as those laid down by the Colonisation Board, and under their control, would, probably, be the most feasible plan for starting a new colony.

With regard to the financial risk the matter stands thus:—The settlement of the *right kind of settler* and of his family, without capital of his own, is a sound investment for parties interested in the settlement of the land advancing the money. If, on the other hand, as might be the case with settlers from the Congested Districts of Ireland, the material were not quite suitable for the experiment, some risk would be incurred, and it is the amount of this risk that the Congested Districts Board would have, in some way or other, to bear. For example, the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, who assisted the Salteoate Colony, is now itself advancing large sums to settlers who have been forced to leave their farms in Dakota, United States, and are coming, in large numbers, into Manitoba and Assiniboia. The Railway Company does not expect to lose any money, but to reap considerable profit by its advances, but it is not willing to take the same risk with settlers of the Crofter type. No doubt a sum could be named that would compensate it for limitation in the selection of the settlers, but such sum would have to be provided by the Congested Districts Board in the case of Irish immigrants, if the Colonisation Board, acting for the Congested Districts Board, were to make terms with the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, which, chiefly through Mr. Eden's exertions, have the best scheme of colonisation I have seen.

To sum up the foregoing, a limited emigration to the older settled parts of Canada might be assisted, if encouraged by the Dominion Government. In Manitoba and the North-West Territories a position may be earned by the West of Ireland emigrant far beyond the possibilities of life at home, but this can only be obtained by an elaborate system of colonisation which I believe the Colonisation Board could render successful.

It is only right to mention that the many Ministers and Government Officials whom we met, and the officers of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and Hudson's Bay Company, did all in their power to assist us to obtain information. Their courtesy and hospitality was unremitting.

HORACE PLUNKETT.

May 15, 1892.

Since the above was written, Mr. Davitt has published an article in the *Nineteenth Century* of April, 1892, which appears to substantiate the facts, and to differ little from the conclusions of this Report.

APPENDIX F.

Account of actual Receipts and Payments from the 5th of August, 1891, to the 31st of March, 1893, as furnished to the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

RECEIPTS.	AMOUNT.	PAYMENTS.	AMOUNT.
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Interest on Church Surplus Grant,	10,000 0 0	Agriculture—Grants and other Expenditure,	2,000 14 2
Fisheries—Miscellaneous Receipts,	1 10 0	Fisheries—	1,500 10 12
		Fairs, Bazaars, Bridges, &c.—Grants and other Expenditure,	200 0 0
		Balance on 31st March, 1893,	15,000 10 0
	£ 10,001 10 0		£ 15,000 14 2

WILLIAM L. MITCHELL,

Accounting Officer.

DUBLIN CASTLE,

3rd January, 1893.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ult. forwarding for submission to His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant copy of the First Annual Report of the Congested Districts Board for Ireland.

I am,

SIR,

Your obedient Servant,

W. S. B. KAYE

The Secretary,

Congested Districts Board for Ireland,

23, Rutland Square, Dublin.

MAP OF IRELAND.

— SHOWING —

CONGESTED DISTRICTS

in accordance with the terms of
the Statute 54 & 55 Vic. Chap. 48

Scale 20 Miles = 1 Inch